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Guardian
This drugs nour puts in court

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Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Austria, and others.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL
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PM throws down gauntlet

Blair attacked on crime 'hypocrisy'

Michael White Political Editor

John Major last night took the gloves off in his fight back against Tony Blair and accused the Labour Party of repeatedly undermining the Government's efforts to deter, capture and punish criminals who "bait our laws and spurn our moral code."

As the Labour leader was making his own plea for a fresh commitment to inner-city renewal and community values last night, the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, led a furious counter-attack against what he called the sneers, dirty tricks and spurious accusations which will come from "the Tory lie machine" as election day approaches.

Mr Major must have known he would be accused of "diminishing his office" if he appeared to endorse Michael Heseltine's joke that Labour is "the villain's friend." Through his language was milder, the Prime Minister used a Conservative Political Centre (CPC) lecture in London to associate himself with it and with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, in his clash with senior judges over tackling the crime wave.

Angry words over criminal records

"It's true. The fact is they have consistently opposed the changes we have made. There are villains behind bars today who would be walking free if Labour had their way."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, speaking yesterday.

"Since 1979, burglary has increased by 160 per cent, theft from vehicles by nearly 200 per cent and violent crime by 400 per cent. That's the real Tory record."

John Prescott, Labour deputy leader, to Michael Heseltine in the Commons yesterday.

"It debases public debate in this country to say that Labour are supporting the criminals. I will not engage in that type of politics. I do not intend to get into the gutter with Mr Major and his Cabinet."

Tony Blair, campaigning in Hemsforth yesterday.

"When it came to the last Criminal Justice Act... what did Labour do? They abstained. Day by day, Labour show themselves in their real colours. And the colour they reveal is not soft focus blue. It's the colour of envy and hypocrisy."

John Major last night.



From left: Margi West, Philomena Kelly, Christine Winter and Maria Martinez, four of the 33-strong Camden syndicate celebrate their win yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

We'll keep good work rolling over, say £10m winners

Owen Bowcott LEADING members of a syndicate of 33 council workers who scooped £10 million on the National Lottery yesterday pledged to stay at their posts, helping the homeless find accommodation in north London.

had come in off the streets near King's Cross and had nowhere to go. But the mood at Camden's homeless persons' unit was one of jubilation reinforced by a determination to continue their work. One of the syndicate did not realise he had won until he arrived at the office yesterday.

Asked whether anyone had taken the day off to celebrate, assessment officer Margie West told a hastily convened Camelot press conference: "To work in a

What Camden could do with a £10m windfall

- For £10 million, Camden council could:
- Run three secondary schools for a year.
- Complete two-thirds of the repair programme on the 60 primary, secondary and special schools in the borough.
- Build 40 new nursery classes and provide 1,000 places for the under fives.
- Repair and decorate 2,500 council homes.
- Accommodate 1,650 families for a year in emergency bed and breakfast hostels.

homeless section you have to be committed. You can't just walk away from people who need you." Christine Winter, manager of the unit which has been commended in the Charter Mark awards, added: "It's highly stressful work, but no one is talking of leaving." Not all the 40-strong unit

joined the subscription syndicate, which picked and paid for the lines six months in advance. Mrs Winter insisted they had nonetheless been "delighted" at their colleagues' good fortune. Even their homeless clients had congratulated them.

But behind the champagne photo-opportunity at the Hilton Hotel, comparisons were being made in the Labour-controlled council about how the prize money might have been spent.

Unemployment linked to bad spelling as survey shows two out of three adults fail simple tests

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

TWO-THIRDS of adults, including more than half of agencies, cannot spell everyday words like "accommodation", according to a survey published by the Basic Skills Agency yesterday. One in three could not spell

link between bad spelling and unemployment. Coincidentally, employers yesterday called for basic literacy skills to be made a priority in schools and secondary pupils coached in letter writing and interview skills.

A report from industry in Education said 28 billion words were missed. Mr Wells said many employers automatically rejected application forms containing spelling errors or poor punctuation.

ing spelling and basic maths purely to get young people over the hurdle of getting into the job market. We don't do people any favours by being dishonest and telling people those skills do not matter.

Punctuation was even shakier. Even with what Mr Wells described as a "liberal" marking system, three out of four failed to fill in a simple passage requiring full stops, capital letters, and the occasional apostrophe.

When asked to fill in a job application form, one in four adults showed poor or very poor skills and were unable to provide detailed information without making significant grammatical or spelling mistakes.

Word Spelling Test Results Table showing percentage spelling these words correctly: Allowance 15, Sincerely 33, Receive 37, Apologise 40, Unfortunately 40, Necessary 43, Maintenance 43, Irregularly 45, Occasionally 59, Accommodation 68.

Electric supply 'at the limit'

Chris Barrie

BRITAIN'S electricity system came close to collapse yesterday for the third time in six months after several power stations were closed by gas shortages and demand for energy neared record levels.

"How to Look Sexy, Make Friends and Manage Your Boss"

People Watching by Vernon Coleman

The ubiquitous media doc has done it yet again: this time turning his talents for producing sparkling gems of information in rapid-fire sequence to the field of body language and private habits.

Contents include:
- 3 ways to tell when someone is lying
- 7 signs that someone is interested in you sexually
- 8 giveaway signs of nervousness
- 6 ways to tell if someone is bored
- 20 ways to look sexy
- 12 ways to look like a winner
- 10 ways to be a successful interviewee
- 11 ways to negotiate successfully
- 10 ways to avoid being nudged
- 8 ways to manage your boss
- 16 ways to deal with aggressive people
- 22 ways to get power over people
- 4 ways to make people like you
- and much much more!

To order your copy send a cheque or postal order for £9.95 (payable to Publishing House) to: People Watching Sales Office GU28, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HL. Post and packing is FREE. Your book will be despatched within 28 days. Money back guarantee - simply return within 28 days of receipt for a full refund if not delighted.

20,561
Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some letters.

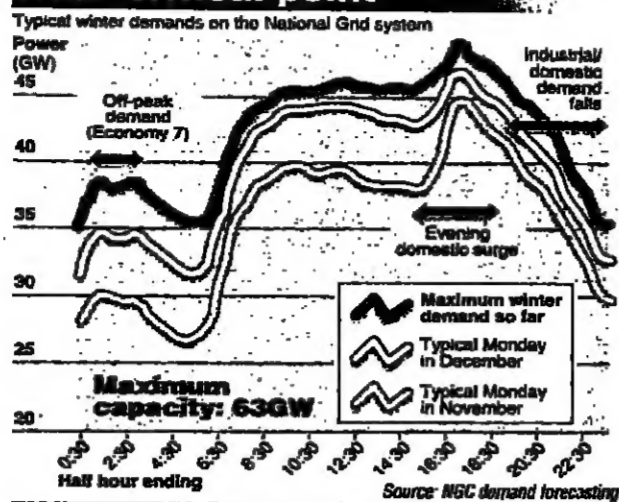
Subscription information and pricing for various editions of The Guardian, including G2, Low 7, Arts 6/9, Education 10/11, and Weekend 12/13.

Barcode and subscription reference numbers (770261 307323) for ordering and tracking.

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Guardian Tuesday January 30 1996
elite mainland regiment
S of kill

Near critical point

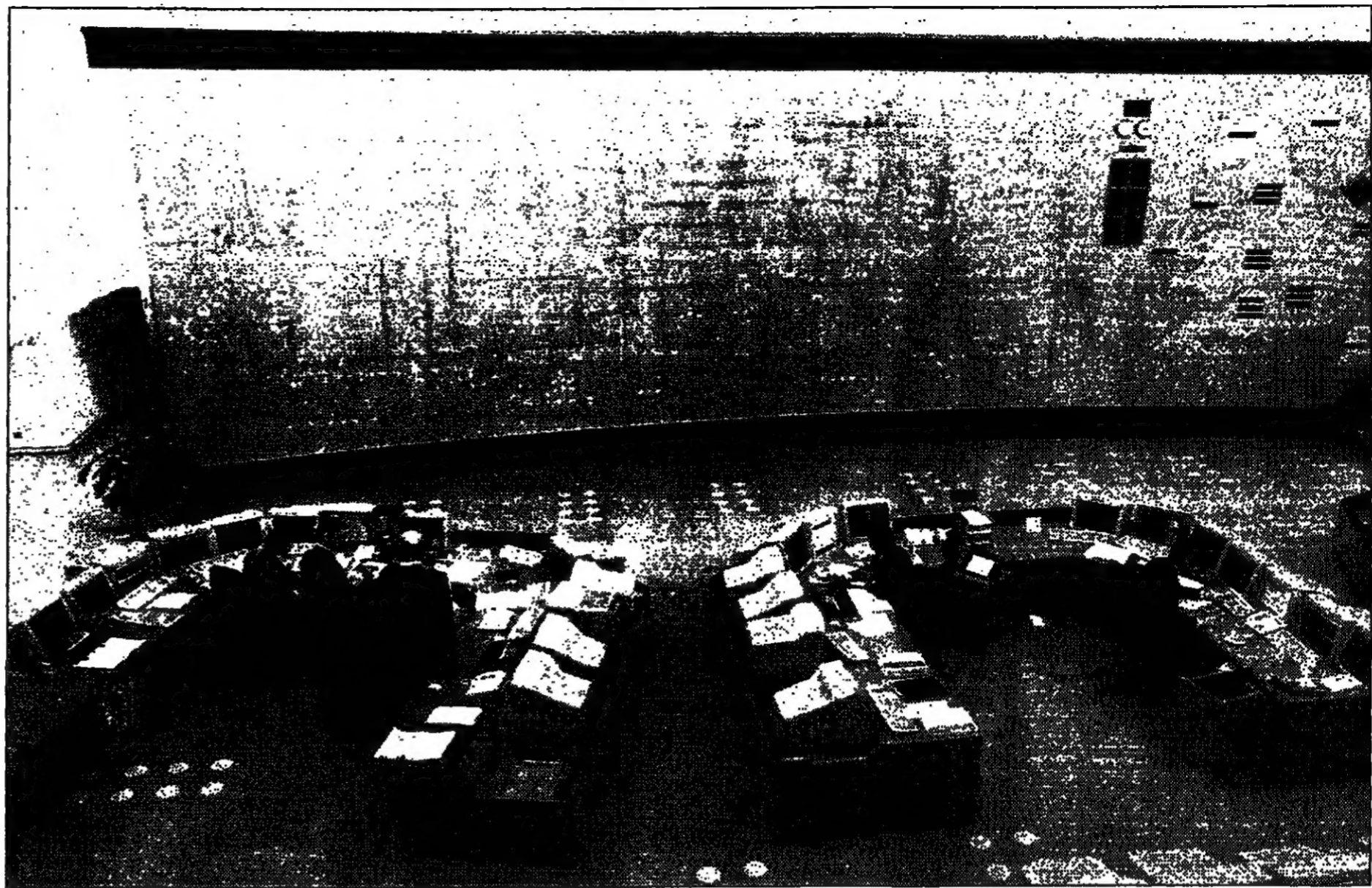


Heroes in grey suits avert Sindlesham Syndrome

John Mullin monitors a power surge at the Berkshire HQ of National Grid

NESTLED amid the Berkshire gloom in the village of Sindlesham, just along from where the BMWs jostle to pick up children from Barewood College and near the golf-course, sits a rather important building: HQ for National Grid Control for England and Wales. Without it, the electricity generators would be unable to operate; the regional companies would find it impossible to supply the consumer and teacups throughout the country would remain empty.

It was crisis day yesterday; not that anyone would have noticed. For those hoping for control centres featured in James Bond films, where uniformed lackeys throw switches and sound alarms for some



Screen test... the cinema screen-sized map at the National Grid control centre showing power stations and supply lines throughout England and Wales

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN SMITH

criminal mastermind, it was a disappointment. A dozen grey-suited chaps, looking for all the world like accountants, sat gazing at computer screens.

The demand for electricity reached an all-time high last Thursday — beating the previous best in 1987 — as people returning from work switched on their kettles, television sets and heating. The record peaked at 48,800 megawatts, the equivalent, as a manager helpfully put it, of almost 49 million electric fires.

As a result, John Scott, national control manager, and his team awaited yesterday with trepidation. Large margins cost a floated privatised utility dear, and the National Grid Control likes to keep as low an excess of capacity over

demand as possible. But with the problems of some gas-fired stations over the weekend and temperatures dropping again, there were fears that a new record would be set. Worse: there might be too little capacity to suffice.

At least, those were the hopeful worries among the journalists packing the glass-fronted viewing gallery. It might have looked a little like the China Syndrome but Mr Scott and his assistant, John Tomlinson, were more sanguine. Mr Tomlinson predicted demand might peak at about 49,000, but the power generators were doing well and there was a generous margin of safety.

Not that it really mattered too much if capacity should be exceeded. Lights

would be dimmed in homes all over the country but there was no question of forced disconnection.

As 5pm approached — the start of the so-called half-hour darkness peak — Roger Kenyon, production manager, recalled the greatest surge the National Grid had experienced: when Chris Waddle blasted over the bar in England's 1990 World Cup semi-final penalty shoot-out. "We expected demand to soar within 10 seconds or so; in fact, it was a full two minutes. People were shocked into inaction." Electricity had surged by 2,900 megawatts as England's supporters recovered.

The half-hour darkness peak grew closer and the demand being fulfilled, with help from imported

Electricity 'at the limit'

continued from page 1

Association, and a member of the Government's energy advisory panel, called on the industry watchdog, Stephen Littlechild, to take greater account of consumers' security.

He said that many gas-fired stations were supplied by British Gas on terms that allowed it to use supply if the company felt it necessary to preserve resources for domestic consumers.

Gas-fired stations on these contracts obtained gas at cheaper prices.

Industry sources suggested that British Gas had stopped supplies to five gas-fired stations late last week. Medway Power, part-owned by

Seaboard and Southern Electric and based in the South-east where there is a shortage of generating capacity, confirmed that it had been forced off the Grid by loss of gas supplies. All five stations were generating at peak demand yesterday.

Steve Thomas, a senior fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, said that since privatisation, electricity generators did not feel it was their responsibility if the lights went out.

British Gas insisted it had to protect supplies to the public ahead of large firms which had signed up for cheaper gas on the understanding sup-

plies could be interrupted. Power stations on such contracts were supposed to have alternative means of supply.

Pointing out that demand had reached a new record last Thursday, its Transco division said one large industrial user could consume as much gas as 100,000 domestic consumers.

The Electricity Pool, which draws up schedules for electricity generation depending on commercial criteria, said last night that the question of whether gas-fired plants were at risk of being cut off was for the National Grid to consider.

The Grid also came close to collapse last summer and in November.

clean-up

Tories and Labour plan graduate tuition tax

John Carvel Education Editor

PLANS for a tax on graduates to recoup part of the cost of student maintenance and tuition are being prepared amid tight security on both Conservative and Labour front benches for publication in a few months.

The proposal breaches the principle that students are not charged fees for a first degree and runs counter to the fashion for cutting taxes rather than inventing them.

It is being seen as the most plausible option for maintaining growth in student numbers without an excessive burden on public spending or compromising the quality of university education.

Under the "income-contingent" loan scheme, part of the cost of higher education would be transferred to the undergraduate and funded by a more generous student loan, repayable through tax or national insurance after the student graduated and was earning enough to afford the monthly instalments.

There would be no levy on those who graduated before the plan was implemented.

On the Government side, a green paper is due "within two or three months". It is expected to present the graduate tax as one of a range of op-

tions to contain the cost of reaching the target of sending 33 per cent of young people to university.

Ministers are likely to avoid backing the scheme before the general election unless it gains widespread acceptance. They are being advised, however, that reform of university funding is the area of education policy which brings the Government and Labour closest to a consensus.

John Smith, the former Labour leader, took the higher education portfolio away from Jeff Rooker two years ago when he voiced similar proposals. But David Blunkett, shadow education secretary, is understood to be convinced that loans repayable through the tax system are the only alternative to a catastrophic under-funding of universities.

According to Labour sources, the only questions were how progressive the scheme could be made — for example, by delaying repayments until graduates reached a relatively high income and allowing a long pay-back period — and whether to use the national insurance system or an earmarked tax.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals yesterday circulated plans to charge an emergency £300 levy on first-year undergradu-

ates unless the Government pledges to reverse the latest round of higher education spending cuts. Diana Warwick, the committee's chief executive, said funding per student was being cut by a further 9.4 per cent by 1998/9.

The 104 vice-chancellors will decide on Friday whether to tell ministers that the levy will be imposed in September 1997 unless they agree by the end of this year to introduce an income-contingent loan scheme before 2000.

Under a proposal by Professor Gareth Roberts, the committee chairman and vice-chancellor of Sheffield, the £300 emergency levy would be paid by 140,000 first-year undergraduates. Poorer students on a full-maintenance grant would be exempt. The committee expects this to total £40-£50 million.

Ministers are understood to be considering a sweeter to the universities before the vice-chancellors meet on Friday to head off the threat.

Professor Roberts was last night circulating his colleagues recommending support for the ultimatum for a levy. However, a Guardian survey of vice-chancellors showed that most were sceptical.

Letters, page 5; High-stake society, page 9; Survey findings, Q2 page 10



Garry Wesser's winning black and white photograph

Prizes for Guardian photographers

FOUR Guardian photographers were honoured last night's UK Picture Editors' Guild award ceremony.

Garry Wesser received the prize for the best black and white photograph, and Dennis Thorpe won the Lord Mayor's Award for the best business and industry photograph. Roger Bamber, for features photography, and Don McPhee,

in business and industry, received special awards for their work.

The Guardian also won the Newspaper of the Year award for the best use of black and white photography.

Roger Allen, of the Daily Mirror, was photographer of the year.

Dennis Thorpe photograph, page 11

Woman under protection was raped by stalker

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

A WOMAN who was raped in her home by a man who had been stalking her for months was under police protection at the time of the attack, it emerged yesterday.

The rape has prompted calls for a change in the law on stalking. Campaigners claim the police do not have sufficient powers to step in before the stalker becomes violent, as a significant number do.

The police have defended the operation and said the woman was satisfied with the security provided.

Cambridge police confirmed yesterday that a woman, aged in her 30s, was raped in her home near Huntingdon by a man who had stalked her twice before. He had been stalking her for four months.

Detective Superintendent Tony Rogers, who is heading the investigation, said the woman was raped on January 17 after her attacker knocked on her door. The attack was so violent she had only been able to provide the full details in the last few days.

The woman, who is married with children, was first approached by her attacker four months ago when she was having coffee in a hotel near her home. He followed her to



Police issued this artist's impression of the attacker

which occurred during the day, was "a savage attack" which had left the victim badly injured and very traumatised.

He said the woman was satisfied with the level of security she had been given. The police were not prepared to discuss what measures had been taken, but in such cases a stalker's target is often issued with a "panic button" connected to the nearest police station.

Last year's Criminal Justice Act increased the penalties for "intentional harassment" to six months imprisonment and a £5,000 fine, but anti-stalking campaigners say it is inadequate.

Evonne von Heussen, of the National Anti-stalking and Harassment Campaign, said last night that proposals for a change in the law on stalking, had been placed with the Home Office.

"We need legislation that will give the police power to act," she said. Too often police were only able to act after an attack.

She added that 5,500 victims of stalking, of whom 30 per cent had been raped, had contacted the campaign. It conducted a survey of victims which found that around 80 per cent were former partners of their stalker, 15 per cent were casual acquaintances, and 5 per cent were strangers.

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'Decline is taking place particularly in inner city working-class neighbourhoods which have been hit by poverty and unemployment'

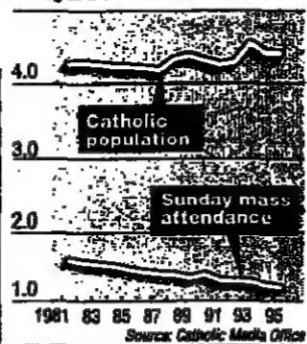
Catholic church loses mass appeal

Madeleine Bunting on the drift away from Rome, despite celebrity converts such as the Duchess of Kent and Alan Clark

DESPITE the glamour of a string of celebrity converts such as the Duchess of Kent and Alan Clark, the Roman Catholic Church is losing its mass appeal. The number attending Sunday Mass fell between 1988 and 1995 by nearly 200,000 to 1,190,007, according to the latest figures published in the 1996 Catholic Directory. Last year's figure was 36,000 down, a fall of 3 per cent. There is a growing gap between the nominal Catholic population and the proportion attending Sunday Mass.

Of the estimated 4.5 million Catholics, fewer than a third were in church on an average Sunday last year. Liverpool, once a traditional Catholic stronghold, comes bottom of the attendance league with 19 per cent. The Welsh diocese of Menevia comes top with 35 per cent, narrowly beating Westminster. "We would like to see more often," admitted a spokesman for the Catholic Media Office. "But the pattern of worship is changing. All Catholics are supposed to go to Mass every Sunday and the laxity with which this

Falling attendance
Estimated Catholic mass attendance in England and Wales, Millions.



rule is interpreted is another sign of the weakening hold of the hierarchy. The figures have serious financial implications for the church and charities which depend on Sunday collections. Even more pessimistic private studies by the Catholic university of Louvain commissioned by Cafod, the overseas aid charity as part of its marketing research, predict a halving of regular Mass atten-



The road to Rome: the Duchess of Kent (left), Alan Clark and Ann Widdecombe

ance by 2005 to below 600,000. Kevin Thomas of the Catholic Media Office attributed the decline to the growing assimilation of what was once a largely Irish immigrant Cath-

olic community into the mainstream, in which religious affiliation is less important to their identity. "In a sense we are victims of our success. Catholics are only just beginning to get into

a position where they will be established and confident. "Until recently it was acceptable for high profile public figures to be openly anti-Catholic. "In some respects, that's negative because when it was more of an immigrant community there was a need for solidarity and people went to church for that. "The decline in Catholicism shows no sign of abating, claims Peter Brierley, director of Christian Research, while the decline in Anglicanism is easing off. "From studies of Catholicism in Scotland, the worst drop has been in the early 1990s and the decline is taking place particularly in inner city working-class neighbourhoods which have been badly hit by poverty and unemployment. "It is more stable in middle

class and rural areas," added Mr Brierley. The Catholic church can take comfort in two sets of statistics which surprisingly buck the trend. Despite a drop of half a million in the number attending Mass since 1981, children are still being baptised at the rate of about 75,000 a year. The figure is particularly high in the Westminster diocese which covers central London; this would seem to support the explanation that parents are eager to get their children into Catholic schools. The number of adult conversions have also increased slightly from 5,731 in 1981 to 6,066 in 1994, reflecting the much publicised appeal of Rome to disenchanted Anglicans such as government ministers such as John Gummer and Ann Widdecombe.

Prosaic warning for M-way fighters in poet's river valley



Tree-dwellers sit tight as the under sheriff reads the eviction notice ordering them to leave Daisy Nook. David Ward reports

MOTORWAY protesters vowed yesterday to defend a river valley celebrated by a much-loved dialect poet who died 100 years ago this month. They gave a cool reception to Andrew Wilson, under sheriff of Greater Manchester, when he visited Daisy Nook on the Tameside-Oldham border in Greater Manchester where opponents of the £290 million M66 extension to the east of Manchester have camped since last July. Rather than recite from the works of Ben Brierley (1825-96), whose life is commemorated in an exhibition at nearby Fallsword library, Mr Wilson chose to read an eviction notice issued by the High Court in Manchester. "Take notice

that any person in occupation of this area is hereby requested to leave within the next 48 hours and to remove his or her personal possessions..." Brierley is more lyrical in this prose: "In the field through which we pass, some 20 cows are browsing. How they stare to see a stranger pass! Lower down a wild colt is carering round the pasture, now stopping suddenly at the gate as if it had intended to leap over it and then changed its mind. I hear the sound of a scythe... there are such strange sweet echoes speaking to each other across the valley that I cannot distinguish whence a sound proceeds." If the protests fail, those sweet sounds will soon give way to the noise of contrac-



Breakfast as usual... part of the camp at Daisy Nook, a refuge for local people. Above left, on guard outside a tree house

tors creating the final 15-mile link in the motorway box surrounding Manchester.

As a protester, Paul, finished his breakfast. Mr Wilson noted the five tree dwellings, the lavatory with his name on its door, and the clapped-out lorry on which a scaffolding tower is rising. The site is small and easily accessible, apparently offering fewer difficulties than the M66 site near

Blackburn where Mr Wilson brought in the balliffs last summer. But he added: "Any operation involving tree houses and aerial walkways is potentially dangerous. We will take all the precautions we can to minimise that danger." Another protester, Pete, who has slept high in a

Daisy Nook tree for six months, helped set up both the M65 and M66 protest camps. "This is a green space surrounded by an urban area and is one of the easiest places of its kind to get to in Manchester." Thanks to Brierley, Daisy Nook became a place of refuge for workers in local mills. Local residents have

joined the fight to save it. "The motorway will devastate this area," said Barry Jones who lives in a terrace close to the planned road line. "I've got neighbours in their 80s who have lived here all their lives and are really put out. They're talking about chaining themselves to the trees."

Guards at bypass 'fear for health and safety'

John Vidal

PIVATE security guards at the site of the Newbury bypass are living in deteriorating health conditions and an increasingly dangerous atmosphere, according to two men who have resigned in the past few days.

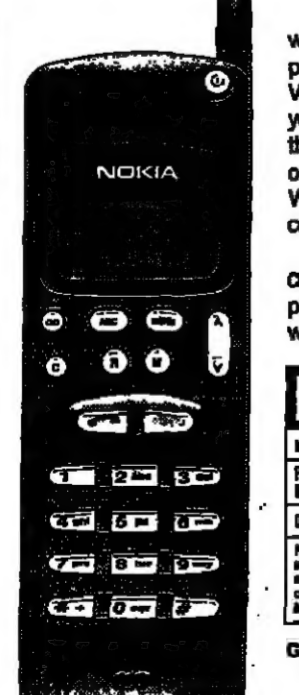
The former guards told the Guardian that pipes have frozen and chemical toilets have stopped working. More than 400 men are having to defecate behind dormitories or in the woods. "In terms of safety alone that place should be closed down," said one man, a retired probation officer, who asked not to be named. "The behaviour of people is appalling. I felt sickened."

"The atmosphere of the camp is becoming increasingly paranoid. There is a sense of fear as a culture of potential violence builds up. "People are looking for action. You are considered a 'virgin' if you have not had a 'rumble' — a physical confrontation with the protesters. There was as much danger of violence among guards as against protesters. Only the presence of TV cameras and press had restrained it."

He said that when he went to the site he was told he would be a passive observer. "Within three hours I was being asked to pull a woman by her ankles out of a tree." Another guard who asked not to be named said: "Someone is going to get really hurt. I have left because I know there is big trouble there." "The comments came in response to a Guardian investigation last week of the security operation at Newbury. Hugo Young, page 9

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Water profits 'creamed off'

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

CUSTOMERS have had to pay an extra £294 million for the delivery of water over the last three years, according to a Labour Party report based on data from the industry regulator, Ofwat.

The shadow environment secretary, Frank Dobson, will use the information in today's Labour-initiated Commons debate, the first to focus on the entire industry since last summer's drought. He will attack the industry for denying the public information about what services they pay for, while "creaming off" extra profits. The report, published today and based on information provided by the water industry itself, reveals that the annual cost to customers of delivering water has risen by 13 per cent since 1991/92. Labour claims that the main reason for this is that dividends from water operations — which have risen by more than one-third over the same period — have been ploughed back into their parent companies. The 10 main water service companies in England and Wales were privatised in 1989, but the figures on water delivery are only available for the last three years. Mr Dobson will criticise the companies for publishing a figure showing the cost in terms of "pence per cubic metre", which was meaning-

less to most customers. Other disclosures are: Last year the industry made more profit than at any time since privatisation, while investing less than at any time since privatisation; Dividends from the water companies' parent groups have increased by a cumulative total of \$458 million since privatisation; The water companies allow 826 million gallons of water to leak from their pipes every day. The rate of leakage is more than half a million gallons every minute. They make a profit of £3,702 every minute; Since privatisation, more than 68 million customers have contacted the water companies with queries about their bills. Last night, the Water Services Association, which represents the industry, claimed that investment in real terms was now more than double the level before privatisation, whereas prices had increased by about 40 per cent. Since 1989 "a considerable amount" had been invested in the distribution system, with leakage levels "now significantly lower than they would otherwise have been". The Environment Secretary, John Gummer, has recently admitted that companies should have dealt with the drought better. But during the drought he said: "I am very impressed with what the water companies have done. The fruit is this wonderful sun."

Co-pilot lands holiday jet after heart attack kills captain

Hwek Chaudhary

AHOLIDAY airliner carrying 220 passengers was landed safely by the co-pilot after the captain died of a heart attack as the plane approached Malaga airport in Spain, it was revealed yesterday. The Britania Airways Boeing 757, which left Luton on Sunday, was at 12,000 feet when Captain Roger Attenborough, 54, collapsed. Paramedics treated him at the airport but he was pronounced dead at Santa Helena hospital, Torremolinos.

Mr Attenborough's son Royd, also a pilot, said yesterday: "The only consolation is that he died flying. It was a job he loved and it was all he ever wanted to do." "Dad passed all his six month medicals with flying colours. Fortunately, he died with no risk to the passengers thanks to the professionalism and training of his co-pilot." Captain Attenborough and his wife also have one other son. The family live at Kempston near Bedford. He joined the airline in 1969 and had been captain for 20 years. He had been flying Boeing 757s for the past five. Roger Burnell, managing director of Britania Airways said: "We are all deeply saddened and shocked. The Civil Aviation Authority, which lays down health regulations for flight crews, said it could not recall a singular incident in the past 20 years."

Chinook crash theory scorned

CHINOOK pilot told an inquiry yesterday he did not "for one minute" accept the findings of an RAF board of inquiry into the Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash, in which 29 people died.

The pilot said he believed the giant helicopter's controls had jammed, forcing it into a collision course with a hillside. He considered the board's finding that the pilot had chosen the wrong rate of climb as "unlikely in the extreme". The pilot, who cannot be named on security grounds, was appearing as a witness for the family of Fl Lt Jonathan Tapper, the helicopter's captain, at a fatal accident inquiry in Paisley, Strathclyde. He and another Chinook pilot also told the inquiry that Fl Lt Tapper, like most other Chinook pilots, had repeatedly expressed concerns that

the newly-introduced Mark Two Chinook was less capable than the Mark One it replaced, and that he had not had time to familiarise himself with it. The RAF board of inquiry concluded the most likely explanation for the crash in June 1994, which killed the four-man RAF crew and 25 passengers, including Ulster's top anti-terrorist RUC, military and MIA officials, was a rate of climb too low to clear the Mull. The Paisley inquiry has been told that less than a mile from the Mull, the pilot changed from fly-by-sight to instrument rules. But the pilot giving evidence thought it inconceivable the helicopter would be that close to land, out of visual contact, and below its safety altitude. The inquiry continues.

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Musician's glittering career writing jingles blighted by injuries from King's Cross fire

£650,000 for Tube blaze victim

Sarah Boseley
A MUSICIAN, whose hopes of making a fortune writing advertising jingles were wrecked by injuries he sustained in the King's Cross fire, was awarded £650,000 agreed damages in the High Court by London Regional Transport yesterday.

the Lipsius case hinged on estimated loss of earnings. Ticket collector Mahendra Farmar, described by his counsel, George Pulman, QC, as "one of the heroes of the fire" for staying to the last possible moment to help people get out, was awarded £375,816 for psychological damage in November 1994. Linda Townsley, widow of the firefighter Colin Townsley, 46, who was killed when he tried to help a badly burned woman in the ticket hall, was awarded £250,000 in April 1998. Mr Townsley died a hero's death, it was said at the High Court, of asphyxia.

'People were maimed and killed and they threw the survivors to the sharks'

poser of advertising jingles. But the severe burns to his hands left the skin too painful and delicate to play the guitar. He endured 18 operations under general anaesthetic and one which involved cutting the sides of his fingers to release dead tissue which, for medical reasons, had to be carried out without anaesthetic. He suffered such severe pain during the months of treatment at University College hospital, London, that he was prescribed heroin for eight weeks and had to have doses of painkillers before the daily physiotherapy sessions which followed over the years. His severe post-traumatic stress led to continuing depression for which he is still being treated.

Had the case been argued, Queen guitarist Brian May, who had heard some of his pre-fire tapes, would have testified in "extremely glowing" terms to the ability of Mr Lipsius, who held the American equivalent of a first-class degree in music and had good contacts in the advertising world through his wife, Sally. A recent attempt at playing the guitar made his hands bleed but he could play and compose to some extent on a computer-based keyboard. "His hope, before the fire, was not that he was going to be the next Eric Clapton necessarily but that he would enter the world of jingles," said his counsel, Colin Mackay, QC. Mr Lipsius, of Hamersmith, west London, had been travelling with a friend's mother on the night of the fire. His companion died. He sustained his injuries when he put up his hands to shield his face from the fireball that swept through the ticket hall. After the hearing, Mr Lipsius said: "I am disappointed. It was not what I was hoping for. I was hoping for a lot more but it's a risky business and you just have to settle for less or go through an incredible amount of stress — and maybe get less. He said he "hated" London Transport. "I think they are a wicked organisation. I think their cumulative incompetence caused hell on earth on November 18, 1987. They've shown no remorse. They have no good will. People were maimed and killed and they threw the survivors to the sharks." Mr Lipsius said the money would help him get on with his life and go towards building a recording studio at his home. "My plans are still in music. That's what I do."



Ron Lipsius and wife, Sally, after receiving the largest damages awarded over the 1987 Tube fire PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD LEWIS

Homes plan to provide old age care

David Brindle and Richard Thomas
HOMEOWNERS should be allowed to pledge a fixed share of their properties as insurance against long-term care fees, a left-of-centre think tank proposed yesterday. The Institute for Public Policy Research said the scheme would carry no public spending implications. It would give people both the certainty of a maximum care bill and the security of knowing they would not lose their homes. However, a report for the Institute by London Economics, a leading consultancy, says the idea would only partly solve the problem. In the longer term, a new and more radical form of care insurance is likely to be needed. "Restoring faith in public insurance will almost certainly involve re-casting the relationship between individual and state," says the report by a team led by Edward Richards, formerly adviser to Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor. The report is probably the most definitive analysis to date of long-term care. Because of the growing number of elderly people, the costs — excluding the contribution of unpaid carers — are projected to grow from £12 billion last year to £38.6 billion in 2031. Introducing a "pay-as-you-go" scheme in which people now in work pay for the care of those in retirement, would require an insurance levy starting today at 1.8 per cent of earnings and rising to 5 per cent by 2031, according to the report. An alternative scheme in which people in work pay for their own future care, would cost 0.8 per cent of earnings but would also involve transitional costs for older workers: £3,500 each for those over 40, rising to £6,000 for the over-60s. Partial coverage would cut costs. Leaving the individual to meet accommodation costs, as opposed to nursing bills, would cut pay-as-you-go contributions to 1.2 per cent now and 3.5 per cent in 2031, while funded contributions would fall to 0.5 per cent. The report says such schemes need to be considered in the long run in tandem with what it calls "partial equity release insurance" (Peri), which could be introduced almost immediately. Under existing care rules, a single man aged 65 would need to pledge a 20.8 per cent stake in a property worth £80,000. A couple, both aged 65, would need to pledge 44.8 per cent. Limiting cover to three years' care could cut these stakes respectively to 13.8 per cent and 29.4 per cent. The report calls for pilot testing of the Peri schemes and says they could be run by either the private sector or an independent organisation set up by government. Mr Richards said other forms of equity, such as share portfolios, could be brought into the scope of a Peri. "This is not a panacea, and the state will still have to provide a means-tested safety net. But it is a way of increasing flexibility and coverage." Introducing a shadow social security spokesman, said the report was a useful contribution to Labour's consideration of options for funding long-term care. Paying for Long-term Care: £100, 30-32 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7RA; £9.95

Child bride 'will not be put into care if she comes home'

Sally Waale
A HIGH Court judge who last week ordered Sarah Cook, aged 13, to return from Turkey, where she went through an illegal marriage ceremony three weeks ago, said yesterday that she would not be taken away from her parents and put in care if she came home. Sarah, of Braintree, Essex, was made a ward of court last week. Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division, said that the court was concerned with wardship proceedings, not care proceedings. "Essex County Council has no intention at present to take Sarah into care and away from her parents..." "I would wish to say that wardship is not a procedure which represents any threat or application which might prejudice anybody. What is desired is to enable the court to further the welfare of Sarah and to ensure her protection." Sir Stephen, adjourning the case for further inquiries, said he hoped the emotional climate surrounding the case could now be lowered. Sarah has defied attempts to persuade her back to Britain and remains in Kabramanaras, south-eastern Turkey, where her "husband", Musa Komeagac, aged 18, is in jail facing a charge of statutory rape. Sarah's mother, Jackie, aged 37, has flown to Turkey to try to persuade her to comply with the court order to return "forthwith".

Student held in connection with murder of schoolgirl

Geoffrey Gibbs
POLICE in South Wales yesterday arrested a 19-year-old college student for questioning in connection with the rape and murder of Cardiff schoolgirl Claire Hood a year ago. The teenager, who has not been named, was arrested early yesterday at his home on the St Mellons estate, close to where 15-year-old Claire lived with her mother and younger sister. Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Lewis described the arrest as a significant development but said inquiries were continuing. The breakthrough came 10 days after police renewed their appeal for information on the first anniversary of Claire's murder. Claire, a pupil at Rumney High School, was reported missing by her mother on January 18 last year. Her partly-clothed body was found the following day by a cyclist, close to a footpath in Cath Cob Woods, half a mile from her home. A team of up to 50 detectives has been working on the case and nearly 30,000 people have either given statements or been interviewed. Samples have enabled forensic experts to build up a genetic "fingerprint" of the killer. Around 2,000 men volunteered blood samples or mouth swabs in a mass DNA testing operation. Officers yesterday refused to say whether the suspect was among those asked to take the DNA test.

Letter spells out writer's passion

John Ezard reads between the lines of 'priceless find'



George Eliot: 'marriage' joy

A LETTER bursting with the 19th century author George Eliot's joy about the great love of her life has been discovered among papers sent to a Midlands museum. "All one's notion of things before seem like the reading of a mystic inscription without the key", she writes of her illicit relationship with George Henry Lewes, a married man whose adulterous wife refused to divorce him. The letter was "a thrilling discovery" Kathleen Adams, secretary of the George Eliot Fellowship, said yesterday. It reveals her exaltation over her "marriage" and discloses how the novelist, real name Mary Ann Evans, was reconciled with one of her closest, most influential woman friends, Cara Bray. Mrs Bray and her husband Charles, a freethinking ribbon manufacturer who edited the Coventry Herald, helped introduce the young Eliot to a world beyond her upbringing by her widowed father. "She began to meet some of the most prominent thinkers of her time", Mrs Adams said. But they ostracised her when she started living with Lewes in 1854, when she was 35. The letter — dated two years later — is apparently a reply to an overture from Cara. It says: "It was a great experience — this marriage. I can't tell you how happy I am in this double life, which helps me to feel and think with double strength. I shouldn't say these things unless I love you very dearly as I do. Ever your old (yet new), Marian", the name she adopted from her two Christian names, Mary Ann. Shortly afterwards she began her first successful novel, Adam Bede. The manuscript was in a box of letters and postcards relating to two well-known local families, the Brays and Fridlanders. The box was sent to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry, where a copy will go on display with other George Eliot memorabilia. The manuscript will be kept in Coventry records office. Margaret Kyllat, collections manager at the gallery, said, "We believe it to be a priceless find".

Pensioner beaten to death while family watched TV

Geoffrey Gibbs

A KINDLY pensioner regarded as a Santa Claus figure by local children has been bludgeoned to death in the front room of his Cornish home while four of his relatives were watching television across the hall. Douglas Holman, aged 72, a retired nurse, was found unconscious in an armchair by his niece on Saturday afternoon when she went to tell him about a phone call. He had massive head injuries and died in the ambulance taking him to hospital. Police said there were no obvious signs of a struggle or break-in at the home Mr Holman shared with his niece in Camborne. Injuries to Mr Holman's head and face were caused by a sharp instrument. Items found in the house were taken for forensic examination. Detective Superintendent John Smith, who is leading the inquiry, said police were particularly keen to speak to anyone who was in the area between about 3pm and 4.30pm on Saturday. He said Mr Holman was friendly with local children. "We think large numbers of youngsters used to visit the premises over a number of years and they may be in possession of vital information which may be of use to us." Officers have spoken to three children thought to be the last people to see Mr Holman alive. Mr Smith said Mr Holman was being visited by relatives on the day he died.

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Guards at bypass for health and safety
John Vidal
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nook crash
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Chernomyrdin hopes to win \$9.5bn IMF loan Russia assures US reform goes on

Martin Walker in Washington and David Hearst in Moscow

THE Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, sought to woo President Clinton yesterday with promises that economic and political reform would continue "with certain corrections". His aim was to prise loose the \$9.5 billion (£8.1 billion) International Monetary Fund credits which are now being reviewed.

The visit by Mr Chernomyrdin, for one of the regular meetings of the economic co-operation commission he chairs with Vice-President Al Gore, was the first high-level meeting between the two countries since the Russian elections last year and the Kremlin reshuffle this month, which purged prominent liberals and market reformers.

In sessions with President Clinton and Mr Gore, Mr Chernomyrdin stressed that Russia's privatisation and free enterprise reforms were "irreversible". He also said the Russian government was still committed to the IMF financial stabilisation programme, to co-operating with Nato in Bosnia and to a negotiated settlement in Chechnia.

Elections this year in both Russia and the US could inspire "some improper interpretation of events" and misleading political rhetoric, Mr Chernomyrdin warned, trying to reinforce telephone assurances about reform made by President Yeltsin to President Clinton on Friday.

But the Chernomyrdin visit to Washington has brought back cold war memories of an inscrutable Kremlin whose intentions in domestic and foreign policy baffle and divide Western analysts, despite a free press and open debates on policy in the Duma.

The US Moscow ambassador Tom Pickering is looking on the bright side, however, and insisting that "the glass is more than half-full, with successful democratic elections and economic production starting to rise again".

The Russian presidential election this summer has sent President Yeltsin on a public spending spree which has mystified deputies and economists.

Faced with plaintive cries from millions of unpaid workers, Mr Yeltsin has in the last few days promised a \$3.8 billion fund to pay public workers. At the same time, \$2.3 billion for the reconstruction of Chechnia, \$1.4 billion to the mining industry, \$86 million in unpaid wages to miners, a



French leave... A French soldier shifts sandbags from an observation post in the Sarajevo suburb of Skanderija yesterday as his unit moves to a Serb suburb. Behind him is a sculpture from the 1984 Olympics, when Skanderija staged the ice skating PHOTOGRAPH: DEGI DELIC

EU ministers firm on monetary union date

John Palmer in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union foreign ministers yesterday shrugged aside British government warnings of a looming crisis of credibility in the plans for economic and monetary union in 1999.

The European Commission, which contemptuously dismissed suggestions of a secret plan to delay the launch of the single currency, expressed confidence that most EU countries would qualify for EMU by the deadline.

Suggestions leaked from a "senior government source" in London that the monetary union project might have to be revised in the next few months were dismissed in Brussels as predictable trouble-making by British ministers.

"The UK view does not reflect the views of a majority of member states," the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, said. "It would be rather tragic if we were to even speculate about a change in the timetable so soon after the Madrid summit."

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkin, tried to pour further doubt on the ability of the EU to meet the 1999 deadline.

"Everyday almost, senior European statesmen from France, from Germany, from Spain and from other countries express doubt or uncertainty as to whether 1999 is a realistic target," he said.

"I doubt if this can go on day after day, week after week, without some serious credibility problem... Those that are committed to that date... are going to have to provide more than statements, more than assertions, if (1999) is to be seen as something that can be achieved."

During a televised debate on the Italian presidency programme for the EU, foreign ministers lined up to dismiss talk of changing either

'Employment must be a priority. We can't allow 20m to fall by the wayside'

the timetable or the conditions for monetary union set out in the Maastricht treaty. But they did underline the urgent need for action to provide jobs for the EU's 20 million unemployed.

Today the German government will present a package of measures, agreed with the trade unions and employers, to create more than 300,000 jobs. Other governments are considering whether a similar package - in which unions concede more flexible working methods, governments cut employment taxes and employers create new jobs - might be agreed at EU level.

"France will meet the

Serb trippers find joy and tears in Sarajevo

The Orthodox church remains intact after four years of war, but old friendships have not been so lucky, writes Julian Borger

BORKA was keen but Mira was having second thoughts. A day out in Sarajevo had seemed like a big adventure the evening before, but Mira was now refusing to go.

Borka did all she could to persuade her friend that their world had changed since the Dayton peace agreement. Soldiers had been pulled off the front line, checkpoints had been dismantled and it was now possible for two 19-year-old Serb girls to cross the front line for an afternoon of window shopping and cafe-hopping in Sarajevo.

For the past few days it had been their constant topic of conversation. Between the city centre and their homes in the Serb suburb of Ilidza there were only French troops who waved you through.

They talked about the shops and cafes they remembered from their

street. Appearing a coward and missing everything, she had decided, weighed heavier than her fear.

Between Ilidza and central Sarajevo there is a mile of scorched no man's land. Shops, houses and offices have been reduced to shattered stumps. Borka wept when she saw it. Mira laughed into silence.

The city opened up in front of them. The squalid tower blocks of New Sarajevo, surrounded by piles of rubbish, led to the burnt-out parliament building, the Holiday Inn, and the dense older streets of central Sarajevo.

The first big surprise of the day was the absence of headscarves. Throughout the war Serb television portrayed Sarajevo as a city in the grip of Islamic fundamentalism, where women were subject to a rigid dress code. Borka and Mira only spotted a handful of scarves around the mosques in the old town.

The second shock was the old town's Orthodox church. It was still there, with its medieval icons intact. "We thought it had

been burnt down," Borka said. "The mosques and the Catholic churches on our territory have all been destroyed."

After a quarter of an hour in the church, the two girls strolled round the shops in the city centre, noticeably better stocked since the lifting of the siege than their counterparts on the Serb side.

In the Imperial Cafe on Marshal Tito Street they ordered chocolate cake and espresso coffees, and assessed developments in Sarajevo fashion.

Mira pulled out an old address book and dialled one of her former best friends, a Muslim. "Hey it's me! Mira! ... Yes! ... I'm in town ... In Sarajevo, of course ... Oh well, I thought I'd just ring to say hello."

From the way Mira's smile faded it was clear her Muslim friend was less than overjoyed to hear from her. "It was like she was talking about business," she said.

Borka faced a similar disappointment at her aunt's flat in a run-down apartment block. After the initial surprise, the bearhugs and kisses, there was little option but to sit down and talk about the war. The atmosphere cooled rapidly.

"You can come to see us but I don't want to see anyone of your father's generation," Borka's aunt said.

"This is all the fault of the Serbs and the SDS [the Bosnian Serb nationalists]," Borka smiled and said she did not want to talk about politics. "She used to be my favourite aunt," she said later. "But she has changed. She has hardened. It's all the propaganda."

The drive home was virtually silent. Mira had been depressed since the telephone call at the Imperial Cafe, and only relaxed once she was back on Serb territory.

Both girls plan to leave Sarajevo once the Serb suburbs are transferred to government control on Saturday. Their day out had not changed their minds. "I will take at least five years before we can live together again," Borka said. But the next day they were on the phone again, planning their next Sarajevo outing.

News in brief

Jet crashes into houses

A Navy F-14 fighter jet crashed into a residential Nashville neighbourhood in Tennessee yesterday, killing at least five people and setting three houses on fire.

The mayor of Nashville, Phil Bredesen, said both of the crewmen on board and at least three people on the ground died. - Reuters.

Mine victims

Two British men, Anthony Michael Jones and David Peacock, were killed in a landmine accident in a remote part of northern Angola earlier this month. Foreign Office officials confirmed yesterday. Victoria Brittain writes.

Arms cache secret

The US ambassador, Swane Hunt, yesterday handed over to the Austrian government one of the best kept secrets of both countries: the location of 79 arms caches the Americans set up in Austria in the early 1950s. - AP.

'Suicide' clue

The body of a woman was found in Oakland County, Michigan, yesterday in a Volkswagen belonging to the right-to-die activist, Dr Jack Kevoikian. - Reuters.

Mexico accord

John Major and President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico agreed yesterday to work for greater Mexican access to European Union markets while the Mexican president said he would seek to encourage more British investment in his country. Ian Black writes.

£9m rescue plan for French daily

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

IN A last-ditch attempt to save the leftwing newspaper Liberation, its journalists are tomorrow expected to accept severe job cuts and a 20 per cent increase in the price of the paper.

The 20-year-old daily, whose lively packaging of responsible reporting in a tabloid format has been imitated all over the world, is the latest casualty in a deepening French newspaper crisis.

After the closure of three national newspapers in as many months, staff at Liberation believe their will be next unless they accept a rescue package from the Chargeurs textiles and media group, which controls 12 per cent of the company.

But many of the paper's 390 journalists, who will decide whether to hand 65 per cent control to Chargeurs in return for a FF60 million (£9.3 million) cash injection, believe their loss of control will be too great.

One said: "It is the price of survival, so we do not have much choice. But in France, we are very suspicious of industrialists taking controlling interests in newspapers."

The rescue package, which is expected to lead to 78 job losses, includes £2.2 million to compensate shareholding staff for their loss of control; this will be cut from 45.2 per cent to 20 per cent.

The rescue comes after a two-year struggle against

losses of £1.9 million a month, which were partly recouped after a redesign in 1994 and 100 staff cuts last year.

Liberation is the latest casualty in a deepening European newspaper crisis caused by falling advertising revenues and a 20 per cent increase since 1994 in the price of newsprint.

French newspapers - none of which costs less than 90p - face the added constraint of a monopolistic distribution system. Earlier this month the daily InfoMatin closed after less than two years in existence. In the last quarter of 1995, two Sunday newspapers closed.

Liberation's average sales of 300,000 copies a day are low by British standards. But in France, it is weekly magazines and regional newspapers which have the largest share of the market. Apart from the hugely successful sports daily, L'Equipe, France's biggest newspaper is Ouest-France, a regional daily selling 800,000 copies in Brittany and Normandy.

According to Anne Chaussebourg, deputy editor of Le Monde, which sells 400,000 copies a day, the French press is gradually falling into the hands of large groups. "We are seeing a concentration of media ownership which is rather similar to the British and German pattern. Because the phenomenon is new, we do not have legislation to safeguard the independence of the press," she said.

Snow hinders search for mine victims

David Farrhall, Defence Correspondent

EFFORTS to recover the bodies of three British soldiers killed by a landmine in western Bosnia at the weekend were defeated yesterday by heavy snow and the hidden danger of other mines. As darkness fell army engineers had reached the wrecked vehicle but were still trying to extract it.

"There are far more mines around the vehicle than we might have imagined, both anti-tank and anti-personnel," said a spokeswoman at British sector headquarters.

The three dead soldiers were named yesterday as Trooper John Kelly, aged 21, from Sunderland, Lieutenant Richard Madden, aged 25, from Hohne, Germany, and Trooper Andrew Ovington, aged 25, from Peterlee, County Durham. All three were members of the Light Dragoons, with regimental headquarters at Newcastle upon Tyne, but normally based at Hohne.

They died in their Spartan tracked combat vehicle about 12 miles east of Titor Drvar, accompanied by another vehicle, as part of the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-FOR). The Spartan is lightly armoured. In this case the mine detonated ammunition inside the vehicle, which then burned out.

The incident has confirmed Nato commanders' fears that the worst danger they now face is unmarked minefields, made doubly dangerous by a covering of snow and the lack of accurate minefield maps.

There are believed to be between 3 million and 7 million uncharted mines scattered along former confrontation lines and in areas that may soon be revisited by tourists.

Thousands of minefield maps, of varying accuracy, have been handed over to the I-FOR commanders as required by the Dayton ac-



Gently does it... A Russian soldier defuses a mine in Pribor, north-east of Tuzla

cord. But one Nato source suggested yesterday that they probably cover only a third of the mines, most of which are anti-personnel devices.

Worldwide, mines kill or maim 500 people a week. In Geneva, diplomatic efforts are being made to strengthen the mining protocol of the United Nations inhumane weapons convention, but there is no immediate prospect of a complete ban.

Britain supports a partial ban on devices that do not self-destruct after a certain time. Meanwhile, for every mine painstakingly cleared, another 20 are laid.

John Kelly's father Dennis said yesterday: "He loved the army. It was his life. He never said he was worried. He came out of there during the war without a scratch and has gone back to be killed in

Belgrade to get EU recognition

John Palmer in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union foreign ministers said last night they were on the point of formally recognising the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro - despite pressure from Washington to deny such rewards to the Belgrade government.

The EU overture to the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, has angered the United States, human rights groups and those investigating war crimes.

The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said earlier that the issue had been put on ice because of transatlantic policy differences. He said he had received a message from the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, restating Washington's opposition.

But later the French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, said the text of an EU recognition declaration had been agreed, and that France would go ahead unilaterally. EU recognition is seen as a reward for President Milosevic's help in securing the Dayton peace agreement.

Last week the president of the International War Crimes Tribunal, Richard Goldstone, said he had not received "even the minimum of co-operation" from Belgrade.

After the meeting in Brussels the Italian foreign minis-

ter, Susan Agnelli, said it was hoped that recognition would come "really quite soon".

Ministers claimed they were only waiting for confirmation of a detailed mutual recognition agreement between Belgrade and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

"This is now the only issue that remains to be settled," the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkin, said. "There is a general view now that we should be moving towards recognition of Yugoslavia."

The main obstacle appeared to be the name by which the Macedonian state is to be known. "As I speak, [that issue] and the precise date for recognition by Belgrade are not entirely satisfactorily sorted out," European Commission official said last night.

The US fears that premature recognition might make it more difficult to secure a final mutual recognition agreement between Yugoslavia and Croatia, and could lead to repression in Kosovo.

Angry women refugees from Srebrenica, fearing for the fate of 8,000 men missing after the fall of the Muslim enclave, rampaged through Red Cross offices in Tuzla yesterday, smashing windows and equipment. At nightfall, some were still inside.

Leader comment, page 8

The trouble with John Major is that he doesn't believe in anything or look more than 48 hours ahead. I quite like him but I don't admire him. All politicians of the nineties are interested in is being in the job. That's what Margaret and Tony Blair have in common. Belief.

Lord Young G2 page 4

سكاك الامل

Drug abuse is rising as rebel commanders supply child soldiers, writes Cindy Shiner in Monrovia

Fighting Liberia's other war

COLONEL Abraham Kromah is fighting his own private war in Liberia's six-year civil conflict. His enemy is the drugs ravaging the country's youth, a scourge he believes led to the death of his 14-year-old brother, who was forced to join a rebel army.

"The rest [three other siblings] died at the hands of child soldiers who never knew they were doing because they were under the influence of drugs," said Col Kromah, aged 30, deputy director of the national police and the head of Interpol in Monrovia.

He said his brother was killed in battle while on drugs provided by his commanders. Before the war broke out in December 1989, Liberia was used as a transit point for drugs passed from south-east Asia through Nigeria. But now the country has become a drug consumer, adding another problem to poverty and civil strife.

The United Nations drug control programme is aware of the menace. It opened an office in Liberia last week. "Today it's all over the place," said Edward Grant, a psychiatrist at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Monrovia, who counsels and treats drug-addicted youths. "You can get heroin, you can get cocaine. Our national boundaries are porous now; there are no national customs officers to man the borders. Our drugs market is highly saturated."

Dr Grant said the number of hard-core drug addicts in the capital had doubled during the war and that he had treated at least 75 youngsters for withdrawal symptoms or drug-induced psychosis. Women resort to prostitution and young men turn to crime to support their 12- to 18-hour habit of smoking cocaine — and heroin-laced cigarettes known as *dagbas*. Armed robbery and HIV infection have been on the rise.

"I took drugs in order that I would be brave on the front," a former rebel, Bill Gabriel, aged 27, said. "I took tablets that I didn't even know what it was. I took cocaine and heroin too. Grass was something like food to me."

Mr Gabriel ended up in a detoxification hospital and now lives in a mission run by a former Nigerian drug trafficker turned evangelist. An informal survey by the private organisation Libereans United Against Drugs and Substance Abuse found nearly half the children aged between five and 15 living in the ghettos smoked marijuana or took harder drugs, including LSD, which used to be sold in pharmacies in the capital.

Col Kromah said his office was working with Nigeria's national drug law enforcement agency in trying to stem the flow of narcotics through Monrovia. But he feared a rise in the influx of drugs because direct flights from Nigeria had resumed on ADC airlines, dubbed here African Drugs Carrier.

Nigeria is Africa's largest trans-shipment point for hard drugs from south-east Asia. Col Kromah said his office seized nearly \$2.5 million (£1.7 million) worth of heroin and cocaine last year — nearly all of it from Nigeria. Nigerian peacekeepers in Liberia have been implicated.

With international attention focused on Nigeria, some drug traffickers have found it easier to use Monrovia and neighbouring Freeport, in Sierra Leone, as points of export. They can easily buy a Liberian passport and pass through United States customs with less scrutiny. The drug traffickers also employ as couriers Liberians made desperate by the war.

"We are quite aware of these problems, but just how much we are able to do about it depends on our resource capacity," said Joseph Jallah, who heads Liberia's national interministerial drug committee, sponsored by the UN drug control programme. It trained 10 officers for Liberia and supplied computers and a vehicle, along with other material.

The only other vehicle available belongs to Col Kromah, whose team of 37 sorely lacks resources. Col Kromah earns only \$2 a month, and he and his fellow officers have not been paid since September.

Fighting the drug trade has never been a priority for Liberia's governments. An interim administration signed international conventions on drug trafficking last year. Mr Jallah said he hoped to toughen legislation against drug traffickers.

Unless more is done, he said, "for upcoming generations, the future is bleak".

Random attacks, which became familiar in this region of South Africa in the early 1990s — usually on trains or commuter taxis — tailed off after the non-racial elections in 1994. This encouraged speculation that they had been part of a conspiracy involving elements of the security forces, aimed at destabilising the country and stalling progress towards majority rule.

The government is concerned however, that such a force may still be operating, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal. The suspicion has been increased by evidence of police involvement in a particularly horrific massacre at Shobashobane, near Fort Shepstone, on Christmas Day in which 19 people were hacked to death.

Mr Fivaz said yesterday. 'It bore the hallmarks of a third force operating in our midst'. The investigation had linked at least 10 policemen to the Shobashobane incident and their arrest was imminent. More than 1,000 Zulus were involved in the attack.

The police seem to have had intelligence that it was being planned, but did nothing to prevent it. The general strike in Swaziland which threatened the rule of the country's absolute monarch, King Mswati III, eased yesterday as thousands of people returned to work in the towns. But the protest seemed to be holding among workers on sugar estates and timber plantations.

The return to work appeared to have been motivated in part by the fact that many employees were anxious to get their end-of-month salaries this week — raising the possibility that the strike may be resumed if the political crisis is not resolved.

Union leaders had been insisting that the action would continue until the king lifted the 1978 state of emergency and the ban on political parties.

Hunt for clues to explorer's death

Brazilian expedition hopes to solve 71 year-old Fawcett puzzle, Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo writes

A BRAZILIAN expedition is being planned to discover what happened to the British explorer who disappeared in the Brazilian jungle 71 years ago while allegedly seeking a lost city.

The Brazilian-born organisers, James Lynch and Raul Delmonico, intend to use Land Rovers and boats to retrace the explorer's route into the Xingu region of central Brazil. They plan to set out in June from the Itaipu dam, near the town of Curitiba, and travel more than 1,500 miles, following the co-ordinates given by Fawcett in his last message in 1925.

Mr Delmonico, aged 42, a car sales executive in Sao Paulo and part-time explorer, said he hoped to raise the £130,000 needed for the expedition from sponsors.

Since Fawcett, his son Jack and a friend, Raleigh Rimmell, disappeared in 1925, mystery has surrounded his fate. In the 1930s missionaries and explorers reported sightings of Fawcett living among the Amerindians, but these were never confirmed.

In 1987 an American missionary wrote to Fawcett's wife to say that she had seen a fair-haired Amerindian child in the region, the fruit of Jack's liaison with an Amerindian woman. But another Fawcett son, Brian, who went on an expedition to search for his father in 1982, said the fair-haired Amerindian was an albino.

Orlando Villas Boas, one of the three legendary brothers who led expeditions to contact indigenous groups in central Brazil in the 1950s, before the roads arrived, and who set up the Xingu National Park where many of them now live, has always maintained a keen interest in the fate of Col Fawcett.

In 1951 he found a funeral urn containing human bones in a Xingu village. They were examined years later in London, but were declared not to be Fawcett's. There are now moves afoot to subject the bones, which are currently stored at the Sao Paulo Anthropological Museum, to DNA testing.

In the late 1980s, when the bones were being examined in England, Mr Villas Boas said: "The Calapagos Indians told me their tribe had the white man to bury. Fawcett had been on. He had reneged on a promise to give them presents."

"Apparently, after discovering that these Indians were peaceful, he decided to save the gifts for pacifying more aggressive tribes like us on."

"Fawcett was a cultured man, but by their accounts he lacked the sensitivity to deal with Indians and was sharp with their children, pushing them away and scolding them when they played with his baggage."

Mr Villas Boas believes that Fawcett was really seeking minerals, not a lost city. He says he was told by Kalapalo Amerindians exactly how Fawcett had met his death. They said the explorer was killed with a blow to the neck while he stood on a river bank, and then thrown into a lake, after he antagonised the Amerindians in the village where he was staying.

Jack Fawcett and Rimmell were killed when they went to his rescue, according to this account.



Homebound... The Ganga Risala Camel Corps performs the annual beating the retreat ceremony in front of the Presidential Palace, New Delhi, yesterday

Campaign opens with Keating in the rough

It is too early to write off trailing Labour, writes Christopher Zinn in Sydney

THE chances of the prime minister, Paul Keating, leading the Australian Labour Party to its sixth term in office looked poor as the election campaign began yesterday with the latest polls taking the conservative opposition's lead to 14 points.

The Liberal-National Party coalition needs only a 0.5 per cent swing on March 2 to take seven seats from Labour and unseat the party after 13 years in power.

The Labour Party holds 79 seats in the federal parliament, the coalition 86 and independents two. Under the preferential electoral system, the first party to win 75 seats forms a government.

Mr Keating, aged 53, dismisses opinion poll results, saying a good leader does not have to be popular. But he has slipped further behind the opposition leader, John Howard, during the past year.

Yesterday's polls show that Labour's support has fallen to 38 per cent, compared to the coalition's 50 per cent. Betting shops are giving heavy odds against a Labour win.

Mr Keating began his campaign in Melbourne by announcing a £100 million four-year programme to combat high youth unemployment, homelessness and drug addiction. He promised to cut the unemployment rate, as high as 30 per cent in some areas, to 5 per cent by the year 2000.

Mr Howard promised to help small businesses improve job prospects for the young. Last week the prime minister announced a package of environmental measures. The environment, economic management, unemployment, labour relations and health care are emerging as the key issues.

Labour's first television commercials have tried to paint Mr Howard as a weak far-right monarchist bent on new policies who wants to turn the clock back. Mr Howard, aged 58, was dropped as

opposition leader after his 1987 poll defeat, but made a comeback last year. The Democrats, the third party, are campaigning under the slogan "Keep the bastards honest".

Led by Cheryl Kernot, they face a bitter battle with the Greens to retain the balance of power in the senate, where half the 80 seats are up for reelection.

Ms Kernot said: "Whether John Howard wins government, whether Paul Keating wins government, Australians will want us there to do what we've always done: keeping the bastards honest and knocking off the pointy bits."

Despite the polls, few are willing to write off the Labour Party, whose electoral strategies were studied last year by Tony Blair. Three years ago Mr Keating faced a similarly "unwinnable" election, and won.

News in brief

Greece threatens Turkey over disputed isle

TENSION between the feuding Nato neighbours Greece and Turkey rose sharply yesterday when Athens warned Ankara it would use all its military might to "protect" a disputed island in the Aegean Sea, writes Helena Smith in Athens.

The Greek prime minister, Costas Simitis, speaking shortly before outlining his new government's policies in parliament, said Greece was determined to hold on to Imia, an uninhabited rock hugging the Turkish coastline.

"We have the means, and we will use them without any hesitation," Mr Simitis said. "We will never accept the questioning of our national territorial rights."

Athens sent several gunboats to the border area after the two sides stepped up a flag war at the weekend, removing each other's national symbols from the isle.

Yesterday, Turkey's caretaker prime minister, Tansu Ciller, ordered the lodging of an official *démarche* with Athens after Greece — which says it acquired the island from Italy after the second world war — issued protest notes to Washington, Moscow and its European Union partners.

US eyes on first mail-in election

AMERICA'S first statewide federal postal election takes place today when voters post their last ballots in a senate contest to replace the disgraced Republican senator Bob Packwood, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles.

As well as changing campaign styles, the postal vote is regarded as a guide to Democratic hopes in November's national elections. Although the new ballot process makes it difficult to gauge public opinion, the Democrat candidate, the liberal congressman Ron Wyden, does not have any measurable lead.

His Republican opponent Gordon Smith, a mid-millionaire businessman, has spent \$2 million of his own money in a blitz of aggressive television ads.

As a referendum on Speaker Newt Gingrich's rightwing "revolution", the Democrats need a decisive victory. Oregonians regard their Pacific north-west state as an environmental paradise.

But unemployment is high in the logging industry, wages are low, and Democrat loyalists may not rally to a candidate who himself advocates cuts in health care.

There has been no communication with the rebel camp since Christian missionaries visited the OPM leader, Kelly Kwelik, last Thursday at his base near the mountainous village of Mpunduna. Sources close to the negotiators fear that the Free Papua Movement may now be trying to spirit their captives across the border into Papua New Guinea, which will involve an arduous trek through 175 miles of uncharted mountainous jungle.



The hostages, who were seized on January 8 while carrying out scientific research in the Basilom Valley, began their third week of captivity yesterday.

Thirteen hostages have already been freed.

Fear for hostages grows

Saddam denies health scare

Armed forces' gay float under fire from old soldiers

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S defence force is under fire from army veterans for allowing homosexual personnel to enter a float in Sydney's gay and lesbian *mardi gras*, which attracts entrants from around the world.

Major-General "Digger" James, president of the Returned Servicemen's League (RSL) — the Australian equivalent of the British Legion — called the decision "astounding and quite wrong".

But defence force spokesmen said approval had been given in line with official policy not to discriminate against personnel because of their sexual preferences.

Homosexuals have been allowed in the Australian armed forces since 1992. The parade, on March 2, will feature a defence force float for the first time. It will be manned by the G-Force, a support group for gays and lesbians in the armed services.

G-Force members will not be allowed to wear uniforms or brandish military hardware or mock versions of military hardware. But they are reportedly going to play dance music, including one melody called Shoot Me With Your Love.

in Sarajevo

grade to get recognition

John Major is that he doesn't like or look more than 48 hours in him but I don't admire him in the nineties are interested in common. Belief.

Wrong arm of the law

Education, not legislation, is the way to cut crime

MICHAEL Howard is angry with Labour for opposing Conservative criminal justice policies. And so is the Prime Minister. But why? The person who has done more to tear up Conservative law and order policies is not Tony Blair — nor Jack Straw — but Michael Howard himself.

It was Michael Howard, not Labour, who reversed the bipartisan policies painstakingly put together by a succession of Conservative Home Secretaries. Beneath the party rhetoric, the two main parties had reached a hidden consensus which involved more emphasis on crime prevention, support for victims, extra probation officers, more supervision and non-custodial programmes as well as prison.

It was one of Mr Howard's Conservative predecessors, the hard-line David Waddington, who reluctantly concluded that prison was "an expensive way of making bad people worse". It was Michael Howard who tore up the policies set out in the Waddington/Hurd white paper.

Breaking with his five predecessors, Michael Howard decided "prison works". Moreover, he fatuously believes the key to crime control is legislation. Hence his anger yesterday at Labour's amendment to various bills and his eagerness to produce a string of his own Acts.

How to catch a war criminal

Nato governments must give greater backing to the Tribunal

RIGHTLY, the United States is trying to deter the European Union countries from normalising relations with Belgrade. Diplomatic recognition of the rump Federation of Serbia and Montenegro would be a significant step towards the restoration of international legitimacy to President Milosevic.

and that includes those who endorsed atrocities without physical participation. Yet the Nato allies also need Milosevic and Tudjman in the implementation of the Dayton agreement, where war crimes are only one aspect of a much broader whole.

Judge Goldstone, the Chief Prosecutor for the International Tribunal on War Crimes in Yugoslavia, is complaining that Belgrade is withholding all cooperation in the search for war criminals. The Judge has been similarly frustrated in Zagreb where President Tudjman is equally reluctant to arrest war criminals and is successfully ignoring US pressure to act.

The Nato military is also frustrating Judge Goldstone's task. His investigators are receiving little help in their attempts to prevent the grisly evidence of mass graves from being destroyed before the full facts can be established. The military commanders are even more opposed to involvement in the arrest of suspects. They assert that I-FOR's identification with the War Crimes Tribunal would be courting reprisals and unnecessary danger for their soldiers.

Responding in the vernacular

Stray thoughts of a Yorkshire Conservative candidate

FORMER Chancellor Norman Lamont, newly adopted as prospective Conservative candidate for Harrogate, yesterday dismissed allegations that he might be ousted by a grassroots revolt because he was not a local man.

like Heseltine, sithee." The former Chancellor, who during the interview unbuttoned his jacket to reveal a silk t-shirt inscribed Boycott For Pope, was asked if he thought Mr Major was likely to be replaced after the next election. He said he was "too topfull o'through" to waste his time on such speculation.

Mr Lamont, who arrived in the constituency wearing a cap and leading a small whipper, declared himself utterly loyal to the Prime Minister. Asked if he stood by the complaint he had made shortly after his dismissal as Chancellor that Mr Major was "in office but not in power", he told journalists: "Je ne regrette nowt. There are them as says our John ought to be waited on by Tory grandees after the next local elections, and instructed to resign in the interests of the party. But that might open the way for some right mithering tussock



Letters to the Editor

That Blair agenda (cont.)

Northern Ireland: why elections could spell a Major disaster

JOHN GRAY calls for "bold policies" from Labour to "forge a new political settlement" (Putting Britain together again, January 29). Yet it seems that the extent of his radical vision is the introduction of PR and tinkering with NHS-funding machinery — and this without Tony Blair's excuse of being burdened by the "art of the possible" culture of political reality.

BOTH Tony Blair (Battle for Britain, January 29) and John Gray bemoan the loss of a collective value by which our lives can be governed. Both affirm the need to reinvigorate community for the modern age. Both are also self-confessed advocates of the Tina (There is No Alternative) school of politics — as first popularised by Margaret Thatcher. Their version runs like this: "There is no alternative to the market, but the market does not guarantee stable social outcomes, therefore we need community."

YOUR leader (January 29) is right to press the Labour leader to stay on course, but there's a worrying side to your point about the pressure that was necessary to bring forth the "much tighter formulations". Most of it appeared to be generated by his own colleagues in the shadow cabinet creating the opportunity for the other side. Is this the model for the future? Will the Trojan horse(s) have to be wheeled forward by the Trojans? Terry Hamilton, 23 Cavendish Crescent South, Nottingham NG7 1ED.

THE dismay with which Republicans and the Irish government view John Major's call for elections in Northern Ireland should be shared whatever one's political sympathies. (Ulster scramble moves to US, January 27). Major must hope to benefit from the widespread view that democracy and elections must be synonymous. This is wrong, and especially so in the tricky case of political transitions.

Some 30 years ago, as Director of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Commission, I went with a group of prominent members of the community to meet the self-appointed Workers' Council. It was beginning a protest strike against what it saw as an attempt by the new power-sharing executive to railroad Ulster into a united Ireland.

I must have been out of the country when "the class culture of deference was destroyed". Margaret Thatcher may have encouraged a kind of bullying meritocracy, a tilting of the windmills of privilege by Essex Man, but she left the fundamental institutions of class to continue their malign business.

Effective political action is shelved, leaving us with Labour's petty preoccupations about community. The "big idea" retreats from the fundamentals to tertiary sectors of society, like education or training. Such low expectations diminish politics. Bruno Waterfield, 135 Isleford Road, London N7 5JP.

ANYONE who has observed the increasingly ridiculous and ideologically bereft transformation of New Labour can only conclude that it stands for an almost perfect fusion of Thatcherism and social democracy: a free-market economy fettered only by a layer of quangos stuffed with Labour appointees.

Major might retort that he is calling for elections only for party representatives to a negotiating forum, and that parties should have legitimate themselves internally before going to the table. Yet elections would inevitably set parties at odds among themselves. The electoral battles and posturing of "normal" democracy have no place in the process of political transition where co-operation between parties is at a premium.

So alarmed were we by the potential damage to the emergent executive that we tried to see the newly appointed Secretary of State at Stormont, Mervyn Rees. We were met by a senior official of the Northern Ireland Office who informed us that Mervyn Rees would have no truck with "thugs and bully boys". We sent a delegation to Westminster: the chief Labour spokesman on Northern Ireland refused even to listen to what we had to say. The rest is history. The strike became a province-wide shutdown and the executive fell.

And now John Major has done it again. He has managed to antagonise not just Sinn Féin but the entire nationalist community and the Irish government. Having appointed a commission which came up with a formula to save faces all round, why did he not accept it? And why has he failed to consult? David Rowlands, Heworth, York YO3.

Austere regimes

OUR family wishes to express our satisfaction with the verdict of the inquest on what led to Shiji Lapite's death in the early hours of December 17 1994 (Asylum seeker unlawfully killed by police, January 26), and our profound gratitude for the moral and financial help we have received. Shiji's death is an example of the difficulties which have been facing Nigerians over the past 12 years.

Thousands from the productive sector have been arbitrarily imprisoned and murdered by the Nigerian military junta, driven insane and forced into seeking asylum in various countries. Nigeria earns over \$2 billion a day in oil exports, yet the economy is in shambles and the infrastructure is in a state of decay. Oil revenue is plundered by the military rulers, who revel in their ill-gotten gains while turning deaf ears to the plight of the masses. We will however, continue to fight the good fight with the hope that a solution will be found to the problems which prevail there. Shiji Lapite, Medlar Street, London SE5.



Bypassing the bypass (again)

IT seems that Newbury MP David Rendel is not totally familiar with the present-day geography of Newbury (Letters, January 19). Some 50,000 vehicles do not trundle through the middle of our lovely old market town every day. Thousands of juggernauts do not thunder past Marks & Spencer's or McDonalds: they pass by on the Newbury bypass. Newbury has had a bypass for the last 30 years. It is true that the Newbury Bypass Mark One has become overcrowded with traffic, but for some very strange reason, this was not

taken into consideration a few years ago, when planning permission was granted for a superstore and attendant car parks alongside this already busy road. Many wise Newburyans predicted that horrendous traffic congestion would follow in the wake of this large commercial development. Will the second Newbury bypass be the last Newbury bypass? Rosemarie Johnson, Earham Avenue Drive, Washwater, Newbury, Berkshire RG15 6LZ.

In America, power comes cheap

THE Electricity Association defends astoundingly high electricity prices in Britain by claiming that, by comparison, one American company charges nearly 17 pence per kilowatt-hour (Letters, January 25). In fact, this single American company (out of one thousand) charges 17 cents — not pence — that is, about 11p near the British average. The average American domestic customer pays only 5p. Someone should inform the highly compensated new captains of your electricity industry that in America, we use a different currency, the "dollar", which is listed as "cents". Gregory Palast, Union Associates, 64 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003 USA.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

The merry vibes of Windsor

PRINCE Charles's call to celebrate the approaching new millennium is inspirational (Make it a matter of the spirit, January 25). He is in effect asking us to see it as an opportunity to reconsider the basic assumptions of the materialist world view that has prevailed in the latter part of the present millennium.

One such assumption is that all benefits are man-made — the product of science, technology and industry, ie of economic development or progress, and made available via the market or by state institutions. For politicians and economists who have been trained in these ideas, no value of any kind is attributed to the invaluable, irreplaceable services provided for free by the natural functioning of normal human families and communities. Until recently, these included the production of food and artefacts, the maintenance of law and order and even much of the business of government itself. Nor is any value attributed to the equally invaluable and irreplaceable

A Country Diary

SOMERSET. Amongst the substantial houses of Castle Cary stands an arch with an inscription carved in stone: "John Boyd 1837", and if you trace the course of the River Cary, you come to a range of three-storey mill buildings, once powered by a great water-wheel where I was shown John Boyd's original looms of 1872 (now electrically-powered) clattering busily in 1986 to produce a lustrous, delicately patterned furnishing fabric from horse-hair. Some of the fabric is identical to that used by Hoppelwhite. Lutyens employed Boyd fabrics, and now there are new designs (controlled by a system of ancient wooden pegs on the loom) for modern furniture designers. John Boyd first spotted a market when everyone here rode a horse and tails were regularly cropped. Suppliers that washed them in the town pond. Now tails come from China, and in a small room downstairs, a man takes each tail and draws it through a metal comb. This is called "hacking". He says you only

drop a tail once. After each combing he flattens the end with a wooden bat. Original hoists operate between the floors of the mill, but if you need more evidence that this industry really is labour-intensive, you must climb three flights of wooden stairs to where someone sits at a table teasing out individual hairs by hand from a white tail to pure white. Children used to be employed to separate single hairs to feed into the looms, but when, in 1870, the shrewd industrialist invented the "John Boyd Picker", which mechanically takes up the hairs one by one. It was extraordinary to watch his original "pickers" (all repairs done and replacement parts made, necessarily, in house) still picking away so effectively as to produce fabrics that have just won "Best Product" prize at the "Decorer" exhibition. Downstairs again, the finished fabric is flattened by a familiar Somerset cider-press. JOHN VALLANS

سكان الامل

Diary
Matthew Norman

GENTLEMAN Charlie Wilson, the fey Glaswegian acting editor of the Independent, is fabled for his love of high culture. So it was no surprise to find yesterday's back page devoted to a row in the world of opera. Both the Royal Opera House and music promoter Raymond Gubbay are putting on La Bohème, but tickets to Mr Gubbay's production at the Albert Hall are vastly cheaper. Having quoted Mr Gubbay attacking the "elitist and wasteful" Opera House, reporter John McKie asked Covent Garden stalwart Fraser Gordon to defend the ticket prices. This he did vigorously, citing the small number of seats and high number of productions, and lauding a level of excellence that Mr Gubbay cannot match. "There's no going to be getting someone like Bernard Haitink to conduct, or Placido Domingo to sing for one concert," he pointed out. Mr Gordon is most persuasive. The gentlemanly Charlie is not going to be getting someone like Bernard Haitink to conduct, or Placido Domingo to sing for one concert," he pointed out. Mr Gordon is most persuasive. The gentlemanly Charlie is not going to be getting someone like Bernard Haitink to conduct, or Placido Domingo to sing for one concert," he pointed out.

Far-sighted view from the tripod

Commentary Hugo Young

THE MOST awe-inspiring political figure I've met this year goes by the name of Ballin. At a time when party leaders are hyping their sincerity machines into overdrive, straining to prove the other man the bigger hypocrite, Ballin makes frauds of them all. For 16 days and nights, he lived ten feet above the ground, dangling from a scaffolding tripod, exposed to the bitterest winds of winter, descending only to cook and defecate, available for civilised discussion about national transport policy with anyone who passed by the Newbury crossroads where he perched. One is reminded, first of all, that neither Mr Major nor Mr Blair has ever made a truly personal sacrifice for anything he believes in.

argument. Like Simeon Stylites, the 5th century saint who lived on a pillar, he sends only a signal against the decadence of certain forms of modernity. And, as is usually the fate of such uncomfortable prophets, he provoked uncontrollable rage. The other night, he was pulled down from his tripod by three local toughs calling themselves vigilantes, who said they would put a pickaxe through his head if he got back up. The police took rather longer to arrive at his squat, whose protection under statute had yet to be challenged, than they would at a burglary in the local manor-house.

Ballin has retired hurt. His vision, however, remains intact. His argument, and that of many other Newbury protesters, can for the first time be said to be winning. He is not, he told me from his eyrie, against people owning cars, only in favour of a public transport system that enables them often to be dispensed with. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the roads around Newbury is displayed to show how this could be arranged. Although he looks like a crank, and is behaving with pitiful lack of respect for what seem to be the economic trends, he is in fact the prophet of the coming orthodoxy. Newbury is the last stand not of the protesters but

road that, the philosophy of road-building has gone the same way as the economic certainties that once seemed to make it incontestable. This has been registered in speeches by the Environment Secretary, John Gummer. It is underlined by the shift in academic analysis, again quietly supported by ministers who want to save money, towards the idea that cars might be taxed, controlled, deterred and prevented, rather than induced. Thus, the thesis once advanced by Ballin and his kind against a ban of derisory extent that large bypass schemes have an inexorable tendency to multiply traffic — is approaching the status of conventional official wisdom.

What's happening at Newbury is the acting-out of time-warp politics

nised for environmental impact assessments. Alternative schemes, built around traffic control rather than demand, were at a less sophisticated stage of evolution. Updated studies the Highways Agency purports to have made last year are kept, suspiciously, secret. The truth is that the case for the bypass, considered in the light of modern knowledge and understanding, dare not be exposed to a new test of public judgment. As between the law of the bulldozer, which has short-term attraction to some local citizens, and the spirit of en-

vironmental protection, which we now dimly recognise as speaking a more durable truth, nothing seems able to stop the immediate ascendancy of might over right. This is not, of course, an easy imbalance for a politician to challenge. Better public transport cannot be instantly arranged, though in Newbury it would cost a fraction of the price of the bypass schemes, traffic-calming and car-share bonuses would have limited effect. Upgrading rail freight services require a national political commitment. All the same, for object failure over the bypass nothing exceeds the odium that should be heaped on the Liberal Democrats. Newbury was a place where the party that is proudly green had the chance to teach other politicians a lesson. Their 1992 election manifesto said road schemes should be approved only where alternatives cost more, economically and environmentally. Newbury doesn't pass that test. Protecting the landscape and sites of special scientific interest bulked large among the promises. Three such sites will be wrecked by the bypass. Yet who is in charge of Newbury council? A Lib Dem majority. And who is the Newbury MP? A Lib Dem, who echoes the councillors in urging the chainsaws on, in the teeth of all protest.

Oh, to be in Turkey, now Sarah's there



Catherine Bennett

SARAH COOK'S decision to exchange the charms of Brantree, in Essex, for those of Karamanmaraş, in south-eastern Turkey, has been greeted with surprise and consternation. Much has been made of the "run down", "dingy" and "cramped" apartment which she currently shares with her Turkish in-laws. For television, we hear, she must rely on a diminutive Grundig, on which Neighbours is never to be seen! Further investigation has revealed that Karamanmaraş has no pubs, only two night clubs, and no leisure facilities of note. Its main street is, of all things, "dusty". Even the Turkish beggars, "shrouded head to foot in black", are inferior, it is implied, to the colourful British variety.

young Briton most want to do after exhausting the delights of our pubs and supermarkets, the lottery and the soaps? To buy a holiday in Turkey, a time-share in the Algarve, or a retirement home in Marbella, Miss Cook has merely taken the waiting out of wanting. Sadly, she emigrated before Tony Blair could offer her a place in his so-called stakeholder society. Possibly, this scintillating scheme might have changed her mind. But for many of us it has come too late. Looking about, Miss Cook must have taken a grim view of the future. By the time she grows up, will Britain be anything other than a great, overcrowded housing estate, seething beneath neon-yellow skies, a maze of pavements and car parks, criss-crossed with motorways on which British drivers exercise their traditional right to drive into one another at high speed? It's possible, of course, that Miss Cook's distaste for Britain has a cultural component. Surfed on Blind Date and Baywatch, she died before Topless Darts and The Girlie Show became a reality. Had she stayed, she might have seen Jeremy Isaacs on The House, promising that two amphitheatres seats at Covent Garden would leave her "change out of £100". But why, Miss Cook might argue, should she spend money to see Trevor Nunn's unhappy, Brited-upon, doing-the-banana, when she can now see any amount of cars and livestock, au naturel, all for nothing?

Geoff Mulgan fleshes out Tony Blair's plans for a new Britain, but insists that without a tax-funded right to work, the rhetoric of 'inclusion' is mere empty words

A high-stake society

WITH YESTERDAY'S speech to mark the 10th anniversary of Faith In The City, Tony Blair has continued his remarkable journey of reinventing the Labour Party. More than any party leader since Margaret Thatcher in the late 1970s, he has taken it on himself to think through a new political position for his party. And more than any Labour leader for a long time he has managed to tap into a clear public appetite for a more inclusive and less divided society.

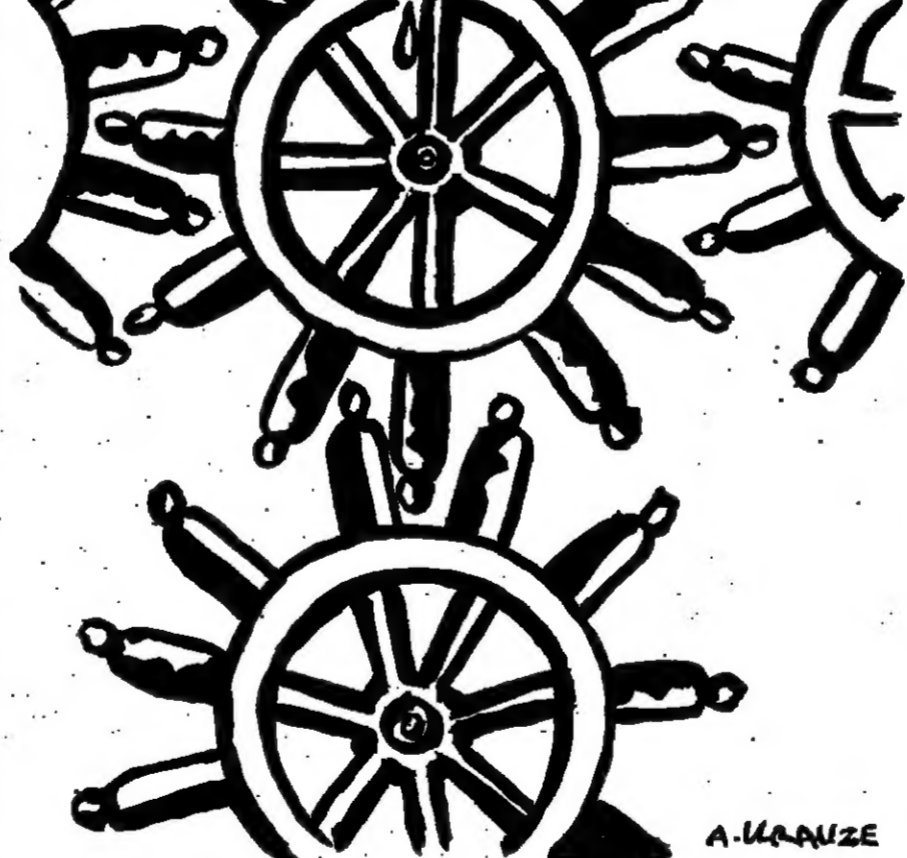
Quite what that means is now the most critical question in British politics. As Blair acknowledged last night, the kinds of inclusion that made sense in the heyday of Victorian civic ideals, or of post-1945 collectivism, are no longer relevant. Our society today is both far more individualised and far more fragmented than in the past. Nor does the goal of inclusion lead easily to policy conclusions. Even the most fervent egalitarian has to admit that greater selection and differentiation within the state system may be necessary to stop the middle classes opting for private schooling, and thus even further entrenching a two-tier society.

But it is in work that arguments about inclusion will stand or fall. It is work more than anything that makes us feel included or excluded. For some time Labour has accepted the conventional wisdom that a contented majority enjoys secure and rising standards of living, while a minority is cut out. But the truth is rather different. The paradoxical achievement of Conservative rule has been to exclude the majority, not just the minority. Five million people have been made redundant in the 1980s, and although the great majority soon found another job, their experience of work has been transformed. Millions feel insecure about their prospects and one in five working-age households is now jobless.

This 1980s legacy is obviously worst for the unemployed. But even people in jobs cannot fail to notice the huge contrast between their unprecedented powers as consumers and lack of power at work. As consumers we have at our disposal an extraordinary range of choices. Gleaming shopping malls stud the British landscape, in places like Meadowhall and Thurrock. New powers of choice have been introduced into workers' most of us are powerless. We're there to be seen and not heard, with minimal rights to information or to a voice. If the customer is king, the employee is a serf. The result is almost a double life, a schizophrenic contrast between the power we have as consumers and the powerlessness we experience in the nearly 40 hours we spend each week at work.

need to be funded by a special "inclusion" tax. There is no alternative to it, since for most people a job is a far more important symbol of citizenship than a vote or constitutional rights. The second is education and employability. In a more fluid market the stakes that matter are inside people's heads. Without affordable access to skills, preferably repaid (as university education should be) through the tax or national insurance system, few can have any real sense of choice about their jobs. In this sense, power to move between jobs as well as power within a job is critical. The third key is a guarantee of economic security. The virtue of insurance models like Singapore's is not just that they allow people to see their savings in an account as a form of individualised collectivism. They can also be designed to pay not just for pensions or care, but also for a period out of work to train or to look after children. In other words, they can alleviate the fear of redundancy by ensuring a reasonable income (at least for a few months) and by financing more creative uses of periods out of work than a mad scramble for jobs which don't exist.

WHAT else has Miss Cook missed, languishing in the "littered basement" of the threat of power blackouts? A new scheme to teach infants about alcohol, as well as sex? Lottery roll-overs, with their repetitious sequence of greed, despair and recrimination? The ravings of the Queen of Hearts — or more importantly for a Moslem, the lectures of Prince Charles, that crusading tampon-lover, on the spiritual dimension of the millennium? Can the simple human kindness which she claims to enjoy in Turkey really make up for our superb supply of satellite dishes and mobile phones, our uniquely aggressive football supporters and incomparably vulgar tabloids? She has owned to missing English food, and here it must be admitted, we have something special. Can you find, in Karamanmaraş, a plate of lasagne and chips, frozen garlic bread or a take-away pizza service? Are crinkle-cut crisps, Kit-Kats and Diet Coke on tap, as they are here? These considerations must have given her pause. Yet having weighed everything in the balance, she has, like so many British people, turned against her native country. Unlike most, however, she has had the initiative to do something about it.



A. KAPLAN

Unluckily this is not an easy subject to debate. Although in his speech Blair acknowledged that the most important stake for anyone is

the ability to earn a living, the truth is that worker power has become virtually a taboo subject in British politics. One reason is the benign legacy of much of British trade unionism. By defining their power solely in negative terms — the power to strike, to go slow, to work to rule — they destroyed their credibility for a generation. Few took positive steps to reshape the work environment. As a result, and however unfair it may seem, there are still serious doubts about involving unions more closely in corporate decision-making.

A second reason is that the shape of work has changed. Many proponents of stake-

holding have in their mind a clear view of the typical company. Their model of an inclusive company is a large national one, employing many tens of thousands, and probably unionised, a Sainsbury's or a BT. But this model of work is now atypical, and certainly not a basis for any serious economic or political strategy.

Fourth, we need governments to set some new ground-rules for the employment contract. Too many of these are now simply exploitative, entailing no obligations on the part of employers. At the very least, part-time contracts should be prohibited and employers should be required to train and to help find new jobs for anyone they make redundant.

Finally, true inclusion and real stakeholding depend on true ownership powers rather than vague rights to consultation. Employee ownership is still seen as marginal in this country, mainly because most schemes are set up as tax-efficient ways to pay workers, rather than as involving ownership and responsibility.

Labour is right to focus on "the new nation" means in a radically changing society. But its challenge now is to be true to its own origins and acknowledge that it is at work that inclusion counts for most. Only then will it be possible to put meat on the bones so as to offer a sense of membership and belonging that matches up to the appeal of home and share ownership, the very different membership-badges the Conservatives offered with such success in the 1980s.



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... Ireland: why elections ...

... a Major disaster

... America power comes clear

... Country Diary



Ruth Berghaus

Dialectics at the opera

IN DECEMBER 1961 after the premiere of a new production of The Seraglio at the Frankfurt Opera House, and amid a storm of boos and catcalls from the audience, a stage hand told me: "Later we will be able to understand what this means. She is 10 years ahead of us."

Wagner died and she took on Elektra, that her career took off. When she choreographed the battle scenes for the Berliner Ensemble's 1964 production of Coriolanus, it was her mixture of acting and dance that astounded the critics.

Emotion did not have to be shown but rather experienced by the audience

Ruth Berghaus was born in Dresden and it was there, after the war, and a brief interment, that she studied dance and choreography at Gret Palucca's school. In 1951 Palucca sent her pupils to see Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage, an occasion which provided Berghaus's first encounter with the Berliner Ensemble.

She successfully transferred Brecht's techniques to opera, a task Brecht had thought impossible. And from him she learned the erzählerische arrangement — his art of creating a story on stage.

Wonder and Axel Manthey and architect Hans Dieter Schaal. She continued to work with all three outside Frankfurt.

During her years in that city it was her productions of almost unknown pieces like Janacek's The Makropulos Affair or Berlioz's The Trojans which were extraordinary successes while operas from the traditional repertoire by Mozart and Wagner were, especially initially, rejected by the public.

because she was always well-prepared and took all her ideas right from the source, with sometimes an unexpected directness. She never asked the impossible from a singer but she loved that special artificial constitution singers need to get into stage.



Berghaus... always ahead of her time

forward and did not feel any necessity to change her political attitude according to the new circumstances. For her, unlike many East Germans, work continued to flow in after 1989.

Geoffrey Pardoe

Boffin who gave Westminster a rocket

Geoffrey Pardoe, who has died of a heart attack aged 67, was a pioneer of British rocketry, a consulting engineer and, for decades, among the most articulate and critical commentators on the British government's absence of space policy.

The Eldo project was the first collaborative aerospace programme of its kind and Pardoe felt at home in it because, on top of his expertise and experience, he spoke fluent French and German.



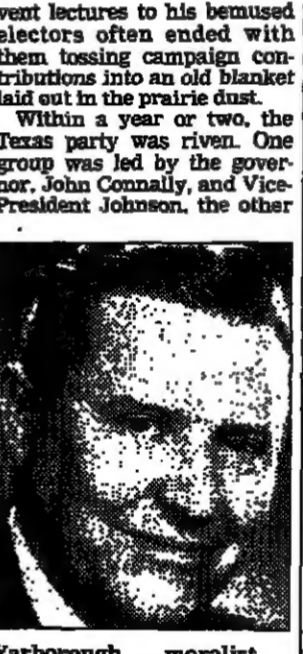
Pardoe... space pioneer

Pardoe argued fiercely that this trivial saving might put Britain out of spaceflight for good. Since he saw space and later other government neglected developments such as advanced energy systems — as of great importance to technological and national prosperity, he addressed the problem in two ways.

Ralph Yarborough

Lone star liberal

Ralph Yarborough, who has died aged 92, tried valiantly to drag the Texas Democrats into the liberal mainstream of the party. He was the only southern senator to vote for President Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Act in 1964.



Yarborough... moralist

campaign began, he threw his support behind the anti-war contender for the Democratic nomination, Senator Eugene McCarthy. Johnson's announced in March that he would not run.



Czech mate... Olga Havlova was always Vaclav Havel's partner in resistance

Olga Havlova First lady of dissent

The Czech President Vaclav Havel would observe: "Olga and I are very different. I am a child of the middle class and ever the diffident intellectual. Olga is a working-class girl, very much her own person, sober, unsentimental, and she can even be somewhat mouthy and obnoxious, in other words, as we say, you can't get her drunk on a bun."

Havel, until his imprisonment in 1978, and afterwards Olga, endorsed each volume. Between 1976 and 1989 they published 300 titles.

Another Day

January 30, 1992. A cold dark morning. William chapped wood — I brought it in. A cold wind. We slept better, but he thinks he looks ill — he is shaving now. He asks me to set down the story of Barbara Wilkinson's turtle dove.

Birthdays

Jack Bowman, chief constable, Tayside, 65; David Brown, cricketer, 54; Sir Fred Catherwood, economist, Conservative MEP, 71; Phil Collins, rock singer, drummer, actor, 45; Christina Foyle, bookseller, 86; Nick Gaselee, racehorse trainer, 57; Gene Hackman,

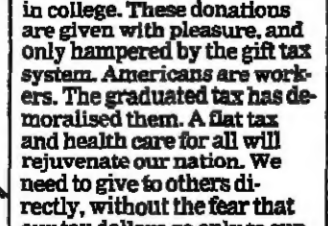
Jackdaw



Open season

DEAR President Clinton, Please come out for a flat income tax and beat the Republicans to the punch. Then you and Mrs Clinton can return to your true mission — to bring health care and economic prosperity to all Americans...

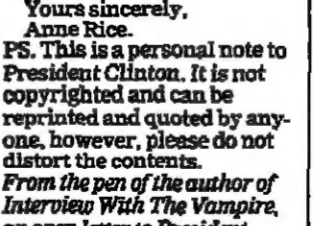
Jackdaw



Open season

income among those I love who need it. elderly relatives, young family members in college. These donations are given with pleasure, and only hampered by the gift tax system. Americans are workers. The graduated tax has demoralised them. A flat tax and health care for all will rejuvenate our nation. We need to give to others directly, without the fear that our tax dollars go only to support the government at its worst...

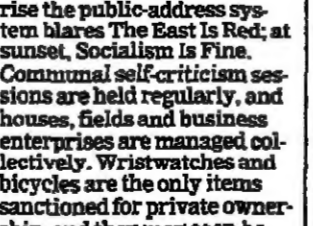
Jackdaw



Open season

God bless the press. We cannot live without them, but they are cynical and they can be petty. You are a brilliant President, and can lead us out of the dark entanglement of obsolete insurance plans, clever tax evasion lawyers, and confused and embittered people who are out of work, without health care and without hope...

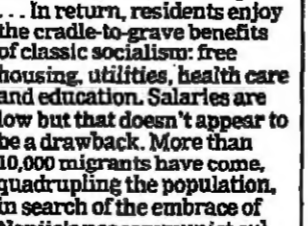
Jackdaw



Open season

care for all, and a new respect for individuality and individualism. Yours sincerely, Anne Rice. PS. This is a personal note to President Clinton. It is not copyrighted and can be reprinted and quoted by anyone, however, please do not distort the contents. From the pen of the author of Interview With The Vampire, an open letter to President Clinton, published in Variety.

Jackdaw



Open season

to PUT MAO ZEDONG THOUGHT IN COMMAND OF EVERYTHING. At sunrise the public-address system blares The East Is Red; at sunset, Socialism Is Fine. Communal self-criticism sessions are held regularly, and houses, fields and business enterprises are managed collectively. Wristwatches and bicycles are the only items sanctioned for private ownership, and they may soon be communalised as well.

Memoriam

PROBERT, Olive, Guardian reader of Gloucestershire, Pembroke College Oxford. Life is not the same without him since he died peacefully at home on 27th January 1996, aged 90. He was a devoted father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and his children, John and Margaret. He would be missed by all who knew him. A service will be held on 30th January at 11.00am at St. Peter's Church, Gloucestershire. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Gloucestershire.

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IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

kind in American history, will provide the region with the critically needed letters A, E, I, O and U, and is hoped to render countless Bosnian names more pronounceable. "For six years, we have stood by while names like Ygrivjiv and Zlynyhr and Glrn have been horribly butchered by millions around the world," Clinton said. "Today, the United States must finally stand up and say 'Enough.' It is time the people of Bosnia finally had some vowels in their incomprehensible words. The US is proud to lead the crusade in this noble endeavor."

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

with full-scale vowel deployment, with C-130's air-dropping thousands more letters over every area of Bosnia. Other nations are expected to pitch in as well, including 10,000 British "A"s and 6,500 Canadian "U"s.

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

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Dan Glaister

Jackdaw teats your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@gun.com. Co.uk: fax 0171-713-4386, Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "EURO", "fidelity", "ans in", "fund", "aders", "Britannic", "motor insura", "B".

American Football

Super Bowl XXX: Dallas Cowboys 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

O'Donnell throws it all away

Mark Tran in Phoenix

THE Pittsburgh quarterback Neil O'Donnell went into Sunday's Super Bowl XXX boasting the league's safest pair of hands...

Devil Stadium, perched on a hilltop in the Arizona desert, given little realistic chance of winning...

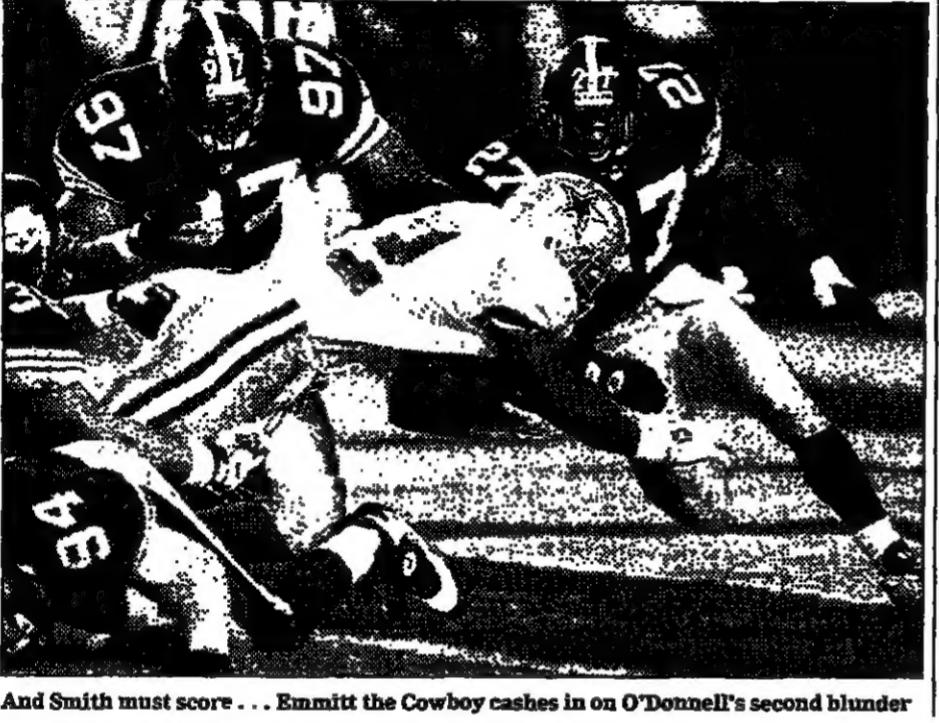
But, to the dismay of a mostly pro-Pittsburgh crowd swirling yellow towels, the Steelers delivered the game to the Cowboys courtesy of those errant passes...

like his ultra-smooth predecessor Jimmy Johnson

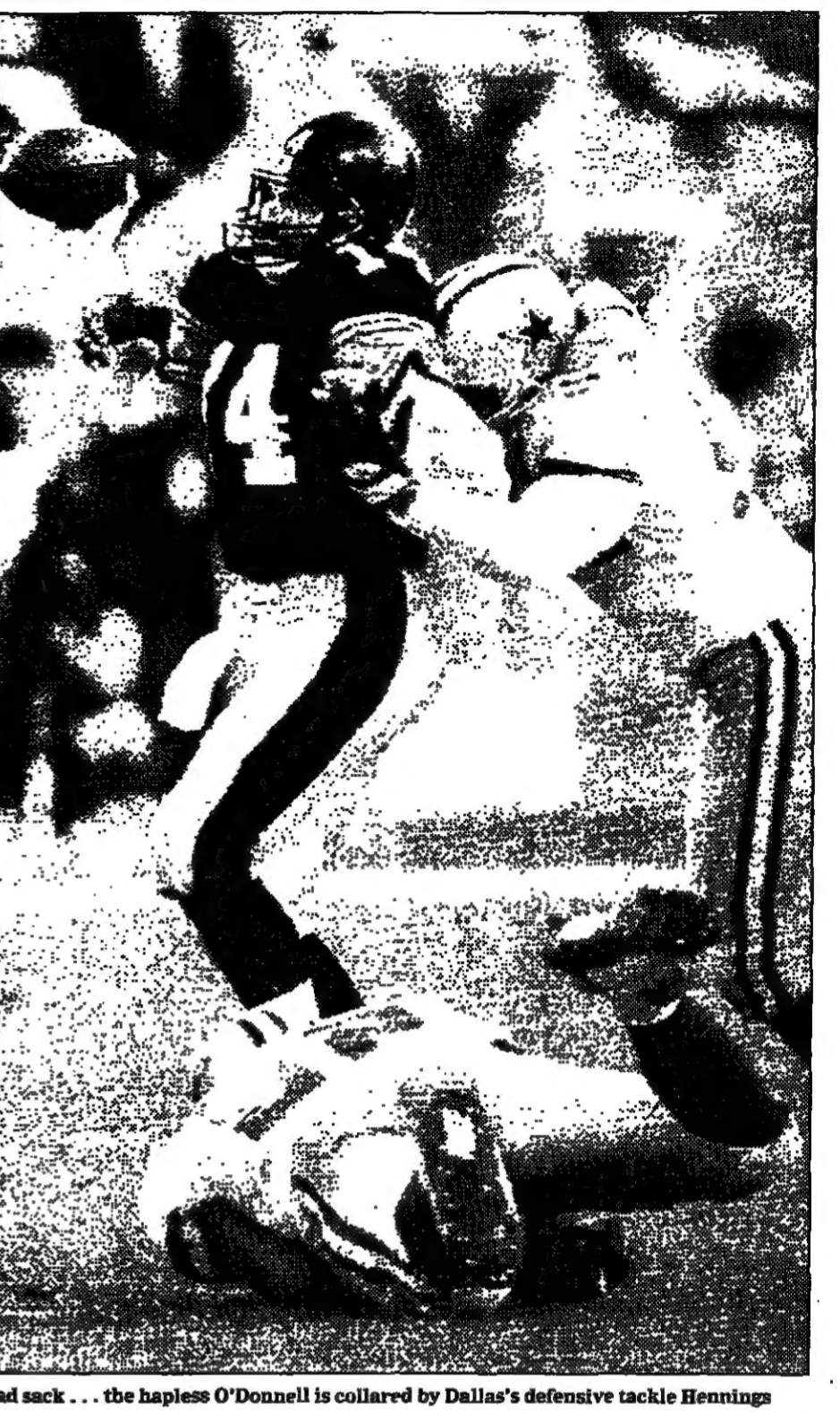
Described as a "bozo" by the New York Post after his notorious fourth-and-one call to run the ball which cost the match against the Philadelphia Eagles in December...

After Diana Ross was whisked off by helicopter to bring down the curtain on the half-time extravaganza...

"I lost the ball, it just slipped out of my hand," O'Donnell admitted later. Two plays later Smith went over for a one-yard TD.



And Smith must score... Emmitt the Cowboy cashes in on O'Donnell's second blunder



Sad sack... the hapless O'Donnell is collared by Dallas's defensive tackle Hennings

Racing

Pharaneer goes for weekend four-timer

Kon Oliver

WITH Cheltenham just six weeks away, Saturday's meeting at Sandown could throw light on several races at the Festival meeting.

With One Man, the Gold Cup favourite going to Cheltenham without a run since his 14-length romp in the King George at Sandown on January 6...

At Lingfield this afternoon, Thornthorn Estate looks woe in the Carolee Handicap...

Cure, Flashing Steel, at 9-2, is regarded as the best chance of winning the prize...

beat Thornthorn Gate by two and a half lengths in the Johnson's gelding...

beat Thornthorn Gate by two and a half lengths in the Johnson's gelding...

Jason Weaver has kept busy with winners on the all-weather tracks and he should make a bright start with Bever Golf Star (1.40).

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Lingfield (All-weather Flat) with form

Table of racing results for Lingfield (All-weather Flat) with form, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Musselburgh runners and riders

Table of racing results for Musselburgh runners and riders, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Dato Star prepares for Champion with away day on the all-weather

DATO STAR, a Champion Hurdle contender, will make his hurdling debut at Doncaster.

Jefferson has ruled out the possibility of taking the easier Cheltenham option and going for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

in the November Handicap at Doncaster.

Jefferson has ruled out the possibility of taking the easier Cheltenham option and going for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

group shares fall

Group shares fell as investors reacted to a report that the Bank of England might raise interest rates.

Irish property sold

Irish property sold at a record price, with a Dublin mansion fetching over £10 million.

the labels

The labels on food products are becoming more important as consumers demand more information.

move in at LEP

A move in at LEP, with the London Evening Post reporting on the latest developments.

Blinker today for the first time - MUSSELBURGH: 1.50 Live And Let Live; 2.50 Furitan; 3.50 Sand King. LINGFIELD: 2.40 Double Jeopardy.

Results

Table of racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and odds.

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14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Robson hit by FA fine for abuse

Ian Ross

RYAN ROBSON yesterday fell foul of the FA, which is believed still to be keen to see Middlesbrough's manager installed as the next coach of England.

if he will face an FA charge over his bust-up with Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDermott in the Coca-Cola Cup tie at Highbyrlye earlier this month. Robson, too, has apologised, while McDermott has tendered his observations to Lancaster Gate.

BBC captures Auld Enemy clash

Russell Thomas

BBC TV was last night holding its capture of the England v Scotland international as the potential coup of Euro '96 coverage this summer, predicting that the game would draw an audience of around 17 million.

age of top-class football. Every Euro '96 game - there are 24 alone in the group phase - will be screened.



Thinking it over... Robson, despite his punishment, is still high on the list as next England coach

Kinnear puts six on transfer list to encourage next generation

WIMBLEDON'S manager Joe Kinnear yesterday put six players on the transfer list to pave the way for the club's emerging youngsters to challenge for first-team places.

£500,000 straight cash payment. Now Kinnear has also told his defenders Scott Fitzgerald and Roger Joseph, the midfielder Justin Skinner and forwards Aidan Newhouse and Gerald Doherty that they can leave Wimbledon.

Cricket

Lara extends olive branch to Richardson

Paul Weaver in Trinidad on hopes of an uneasy peace

BRIAN LARA is usually more adept at waving his 501 bat than he is at swishing olive branches but, as he prepared to join West Indies' World Cup squad in Barbados tomorrow he called for an end to his rift with the captain Richie Richardson.

following his decision not to tour Australia. Richardson, a poor captain of an ageing, declining team who is having problems with his own form, knows he is likely to be replaced by Lara before the end of the year.

Waugh sends Boon off on a win

AUSTRALIA lost a senior pro but won a series yesterday when David Boon bowed out after 107 Tests, with his team-mates celebrating a 3-0 whitewash of Sri Lanka thanks to a 148-run victory with an hour to spare in the third and final Test in Adelaide.

35. "David came into the team in 1984 when it wasn't doing too well and he bowed out after 107 Tests, with his team-mates celebrating a 3-0 whitewash of Sri Lanka thanks to a 148-run victory with an hour to spare in the third and final Test in Adelaide.

Rugby League

Salford draw short straw

ONLY one clear-cut contender emerged from last night's fifth-round Salford Challenge Cup draw, and for Salford it produced the ultimate test.

Paul Fitzpatrick ward for Hull and Featherstone and Laurent Lucchese had successful spells with Huddersfield and Sheffield.

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA Cup, English League, Scottish First Division, and Scottish Second Division, listing teams and predicted results.

Results

Table listing soccer results from various leagues including English League, Scottish First Division, and Scottish Second Division.

Fixtures

Table listing soccer fixtures for various leagues including English League, Scottish First Division, and Scottish Second Division.

Sport in brief

Table Tennis: Carl Prean has declined to take part in next week's Olympic doubles qualifying competition in Nantes.

Cricket

England v Australia: Australia 528-0 (50 overs), England 170-0 (50 overs).

American Football

Super Bowl XXX: Tampa, Arizona, Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17.

Teamtalk

Table listing team news and reports for various clubs including Arsenal, Aston Villa, Blackburn, Bolton, Bradford, Burnley, Chelsea, Coventry City, Derby County, Everton, and Huddersfield.

Athletics

Combined Events Indoor International: (Spain) Jose Negredo 1, (Denmark) Henrik Ingebrigtsen 2, (Czech Republic) Jiri Sedlacek 3.

Ice Hockey

British League: Premier Division: Cardiff 17, Harrogate 6, Doncaster 9, Basingstoke 1, Newcastle 5, Nottingham 5, Manchester 2, Solihull 2, Macclesfield 5, Blackburn 7, Paisley 11, Peterborough 4, Telford 4, Swindon 11.

Rugby League

Bill Sorensen, who played 22 Tests for New Zealand between 1951 and 1960, has died in Auckland aged 63.

Boxing

McMillan back for nothing: THE Broadway Theatre, Barking, provides the modest setting tonight for an unpaid comeback by Colin McMillan, who in May 1992 beat Italy's Maurizio Gravena.

Boxing

McMillan back for nothing: THE Broadway Theatre, Barking, provides the modest setting tonight for an unpaid comeback by Colin McMillan, who in May 1992 beat Italy's Maurizio Gravena.

Sport Guardian logo and contact information.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Lee', 'A', 'Bath', 'B', 'Ice Hockey', 'Swedes', and 'T'.

John Dunstan

Rugby

Paul Fitzpatrick on a ground-share scheme at Headingley that may be followed by other northern get-togethers

Leeds to forge new union

An alliance that may set a trend with northern rugby union and league clubs will be forged in Leeds today...

The Roundway and Headingley clubs at the beginning of the 1993-4 season...

as saying: "We are not concerned about what rugby league as a whole may or may not do..."

Tait, Craig Innes or Jim Fallon to be "guest" for them - as Widnes's former Wales and Lions international John Dewhurst will do...



Tait... union links Wigan very much as the cash-strapped lodgers...

Tennis

ATP defends drugs policy

THE tennis authorities moved yesterday to defend their drug-testing procedures...

Siam events - the US, Australian and French Opens, and Wimbledon - tested...

Rugby Union

Captain adds weight to Wales optimism

David Plummer on Jonathan Humphreys and how he became a hooker of substance

JONATHAN Humphreys epitomises the spirit of a New Wales...

Evans then worked on Humphreys's line-out throw, converting him to the two-handed style favoured in Australia...

few weeks ago, he was given a room with Ieuan Evans so that the new cap had the benefit of Ieuan's experience...



If the cap fits... Jonathan Humphreys relishes leading Wales

'The difference is that he now has the frame to match his heart' - Phillips

part of the Jonathan Humphreys vocabulary...

Bath and Bristol on course for cup derby

BATH, the holders, face the probability of a derby against Bristol at the Memorial Ground...

Both clubs will have to win their postponed fifth-round matches away to League Two opponents...

Robert Armstrong Bath and Bristol on course for cup derby

Roumat talks with Wasps

OLIVIER ROUMAT, the Drex and France lock, is the latest overseas player to be courted by an English club...

Bath are trying to persuade Gloucester, whom they were originally due to play at Kingsholm on December 30...

Basketball

Magic returns to the Lakers

MAGIC JOHNSON'S on-off return to the NBA several times but his 1992 comeback was aborted when some players proved unwilling to expose themselves to infection...

head coach. He has intended to return to the NBA several times but his 1992 comeback was aborted when some players proved unwilling to expose themselves to infection...

Ice Hockey

Swedes and freeze could land Warriors in hot water

THE Newcastle Warriors are under scrutiny by the British Ice Hockey Association on two unrelated counts...

The Warriors, having ignored police warnings of worsening road conditions when setting off at 11.30am for Saturday night's game at Milton Keynes...

to obtain two further players as replacements, even if that is after this season's transfer deadline at midnight tomorrow...

Athletics

London Marathon pledges itself to BBC with Flora and chips

THE London Marathon wants to pledge its television future to the BBC until the end of the century...

Instead the money is being spread around to promote other innovations...

renewal. Flora are taking the message to millions...

renewal. Flora are taking the message to millions...

Sports Guardian

United poach another player

Ian Ross

MANCHESTER United's desire to ensure English football's brightest young talent landed them in trouble again yesterday when they were found guilty of "poaching" a top schoolboy player for the second time this month. United were fined £20,000 by the Football Association for making an illegal approach to the 17-year-old Oldham Athletic player David Brown whose decision to leave Boundary Park could well cost the Old Trafford club in excess of £100,000 once the question of compensation has been settled.

Two weeks ago United escaped punishment after being found guilty of illegally approaching Arsenal's Matthew Wicks, son of the former Chelsea player Steve, because the 16-year-old decided to return to Highbury.

An FA Commission instructed United to pay undisclosed costs of yesterday's hearing.

"The members took into consideration the mitigation presented by Manchester United and decided to fine the club. The fine imposed stands separate from the question of compensation between the parties or referred to the Football League appeals committee for a decision," said an FA spokesman.

United's chairman Martin Edwards said last night that his club was "seriously considering" lodging an appeal against yesterday's verdict.

The fate of Faustino Asprilla, who has denied his proposed £8.7 million transfer to Newcastle is in doubt because of a knee injury, now appears to be in the hands of the immigration authorities.

A Department of Employment spokesman has confirmed that the Colombian international's application for a work permit had been received and was being studied.

Although Asprilla meets DoE criteria in terms of his footballing pedigree, there is the Colombian's criminal record to consider. He is serving a suspended prison sentence for a firearms offence.

Asprilla's belief that he is now fully fit and ready to complete the move from Parma may not be shared by Newcastle, who have asked the Italian club for copies of all his medical records.

RANGERS' WOE AS ALLEN MISSES SECOND-HALF PENALTY



Feet first... John Spencer tries to intercept a clearance from QPR's goalkeeper Jürgen Sommer at Loftus Road last night

FA Cup, fourth round Queens Park Rangers 1, Chelsea 2

Chelsea's spot of luck

David Lacey

CHELSEA'S advance towards the fifth round of the FA Cup was as measured as their tread into the fourth, but left less to chance until Quashie revived Queens Park Rangers' interest in last night's tie with an outstanding shot. Then they missed a penalty two minutes later.

QPR had early opportunities to gain some sort of grip on the match but squandered them all, and they looked out of the contest after Peacock and Furlong had given Chelsea a 2-0 half-time lead. Quashie then met a clearance from Duberry in the 67th minute

with a firm left-footed shot into the top right-hand corner of the net but after Hitchcock, the Chelsea goalkeeper, had been penalised in the 68th for fouling Hateley, Allen dragged his kick wide.

A fifth-round visit to West Ham or Grimsby faced the winners of last night's tie. Dicks or Haddock, either way, as ties go, it was more of a prune than a plum.

For QPR, however, victory was of more immediate concern than its consequences. They had lost five successive games in the Premiership and needed the boost that success in the Cup can sometimes give to a team's confidence.



Ray Wilkins, once a youthful talent at Chelsea and now a young manager at Loftus Road, had been assured by his chairman that whatever happened this match would not be his Waterloo. Nothing, however, had been said about Cannon Street.

Where style is concerned Rangers' hearts may still be in the right place, unlike their defenders, whose error-ridden ways have lost them several winnable home games, including their league match with Chelsea at the beginning of the year.

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BBC hits back for World Cup deal

John Duncan

THE BBC is set to show highlights of next month's cricket World Cup after doubling its original offer to BSkyB, which has exclusive television rights to the tournament.

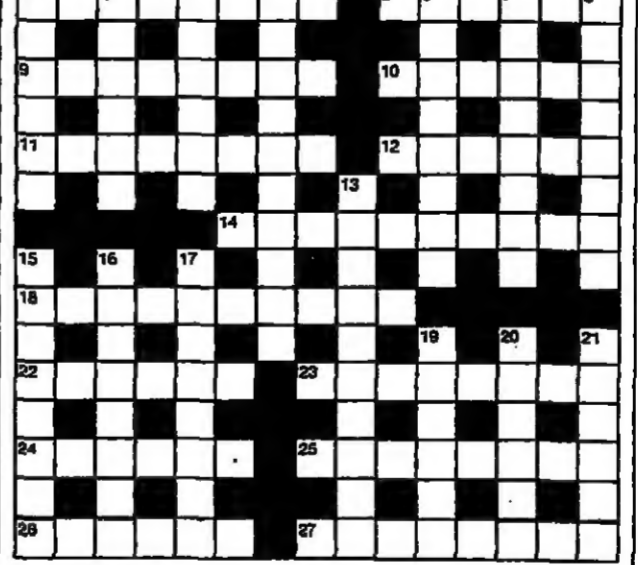
Lord Howell told the House of Lords in last week's debate that Sky had reneged on an agreement to provide the BBC with highlights of the month-long tournament in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Whatever the evidence, is it right to prosecute again Maxwell and Trachtenberg whose lives for nearly four years have already been dominated by the legal proceedings against them?

Marcel Berlins Q2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 20,562

Set by Paul

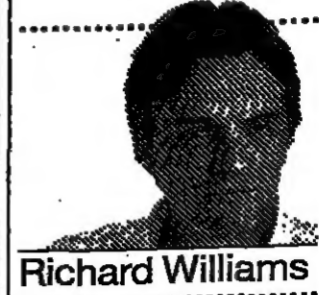


- Across**
- Sailor embracing non-U buddy to the last shows sentimentality (8)
 - Part of the body—the foot? (6)
 - It's O.K. for car that's bursting? (4-4)
 - 10, 12 Magic line to north-east side of London (8, 6)
 - Rebellious Christian left out church with little hesitation (8)
 - 12 see 10
 - Exact severity? (10)
 - Spanish—one crushed by the Granish, (it's peripheral in Seville) (6-4)
 - Car crashes a habit where there's lots of ice (6)
 - Mongrel duck is other and another beast (8)
 - Girl is murder victim (6)
 - Russian fighter drops to earth initially causing headaches (8)
- Down**
- One rarely washes the back of the neck (6)
 - It smells like marksman has been decapitated (6)
 - See 10
 - A welcome cardiograph? (6-4)
 - Sat too high a value upon the pace of cricket (8)
 - Man being injected with anaesthetic must be restrained (8)
 - Coin is English post-impresionist (6)
 - Often in dances I have short routine (4, 2, 4)
 - French and Cuban revolutionaries to different extents genuine (4, 4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,562

ACROSS: 1. NERVOUSLY, 2. BROW, 3. SOUTHERN, 4. SANGRE DE DRAGON, 5. SUEZ, 6. AGRICULTURE, 7. TUDOR, 8. LIT, 9. DUCK, 10. RAILWAY, 11. BROW, 12. SUEZ, 13. BROW, 14. SUEZ, 15. SUEZ, 16. SUEZ, 17. SUEZ, 18. SUEZ, 19. SUEZ, 20. SUEZ, 21. SUEZ, 22. SUEZ, 23. SUEZ, 24. SUEZ, 25. SUEZ, 26. SUEZ, 27. SUEZ, 28. SUEZ, 29. SUEZ, 30. SUEZ, 31. SUEZ, 32. SUEZ, 33. SUEZ, 34. SUEZ, 35. SUEZ, 36. SUEZ, 37. SUEZ, 38. SUEZ, 39. SUEZ, 40. SUEZ, 41. SUEZ, 42. SUEZ, 43. SUEZ, 44. SUEZ, 45. SUEZ, 46. SUEZ, 47. SUEZ, 48. SUEZ, 49. SUEZ, 50. SUEZ, 51. SUEZ, 52. SUEZ, 53. SUEZ, 54. SUEZ, 55. SUEZ, 56. SUEZ, 57. SUEZ, 58. SUEZ, 59. SUEZ, 60. SUEZ, 61. SUEZ, 62. SUEZ, 63. SUEZ, 64. SUEZ, 65. SUEZ, 66. SUEZ, 67. SUEZ, 68. SUEZ, 69. SUEZ, 70. SUEZ, 71. SUEZ, 72. SUEZ, 73. SUEZ, 74. SUEZ, 75. SUEZ, 76. SUEZ, 77. SUEZ, 78. SUEZ, 79. SUEZ, 80. SUEZ, 81. SUEZ, 82. SUEZ, 83. SUEZ, 84. SUEZ, 85. SUEZ, 86. SUEZ, 87. SUEZ, 88. SUEZ, 89. SUEZ, 90. SUEZ, 91. SUEZ, 92. SUEZ, 93. SUEZ, 94. SUEZ, 95. SUEZ, 96. SUEZ, 97. SUEZ, 98. SUEZ, 99. SUEZ, 100. SUEZ

Time for Wales to side-step into the dark



Richard Williams

I BEAR no malice towards Neil Jenkins. He is a fine athlete, only 24 years old, and I wish him a long and happy career. But when Kevin Bowring announces Wales's line-up for the England match this morning, I hope to see the name of Arwel Thomas in Jenkins's place at No. 10.

For that to happen, Jenkins will probably need to have failed last night's fitness test, which took the form of a private practice match, arranged to check on his recovery from a shoulder injury. That would be bad luck on Jenkins—who, although he may not look like anyone's idea of a classical Welsh international outside-half, has served his country with a diligence that is almost painfully visible every time he goes through his shuffling, twitching place-kicking routine.

Yet youth must be served and it is the way of history that Jenkins, a beneficiary of the doctrine when he made his debut against England in 1991 and has since scored 419 points in 38 senior internationals, may now find himself its sacrificial victim.

Thomas is aged 21—hardly a baby. He is only three years younger than Jenkins, which means that we are not talking about a generational shift here. But the subtlety of the change would be just as great.

southern hemisphere, his gifts would have been sheltered by ferocious farm-bred giants. Playing behind the Welsh pack, he usually found those same giants jumping on his head.

This is, nevertheless, the best possible moment for Thomas to be blooded. He played well in the defeat of Italy two weeks ago, his 16 points giving him a momentum which it would be a shame to waste.

And England. In the six months since they were beaten by the All Blacks, have shown few signs of coherance or conviction.

FOR all their public declarations, England's leading figures hardly give a great impression of unity. There seem to be fissures all over the place: between the manager and the captain, between the captain and some of the players—not necessarily huge rifts but the sort of hairline cracks caused by the cooling of relations.

The impression is created that strategy and technique are the answer to everything. There is no warmth, no passion.

Solution tomorrow

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